TUESDAY
June 24, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

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SCO MEET

Doval begins China visit, Rajnath to arrive later

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Agriculture, dairy impede India-U.S. trade deal

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'PRAISE OF MODI'

Tharoor has exposed Rahul, says BJP

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Israel's war grows with U.S. support

The spiralling all-out conflict in West Asia

OPINION » PAGE 7

THRILLER ON THE CARDS

England chases 371 after Rahul-Pant show

SPORT » PAGE 13

NEARBY

Forest Dept. reclaims 120 acres of land

BENGALURU
Forest Department officials on Monday undertook one of their biggest encroachment drives in recent times in Bengaluru. Officials cleared around 120 acres of forest land in East Bengaluru whose market value is estimated to be more than ₹4,000 crore. » PAGE 2

Road rage: Driver, gunman of ex-MP arrested

BENGALURU
The Dobbspet police have arrested the gunman and driver of former Union Minister and ex-MP Anantkumar Hegde for allegedly assaulting a 28-year-old businessman in a road rage incident on Monday. Mr. Hegde has also been named as accused number three in the first information report. » PAGE 2

State govt. notifies new excise licence fee

BENGALURU
The State government on Monday notified a new licence fee for liquor vends, distilleries and breweries by bringing down the annual fee hike by 50%. It also notified a five-year licence for liquor-selling establishments, up from the one-year licence now in vogue. Earlier, the government had announced a new licence fee regime. » PAGE 5

Iran launches missiles at U.S. bases in Qatar, Iraq

Will never leave violation of 'territorial integrity' unanswered, says Tehran after targeting largest U.S. base in West Asia; Qatar temporarily suspends airspace after U.S. issues advisory for citizens

Stanly Johny
DOHA

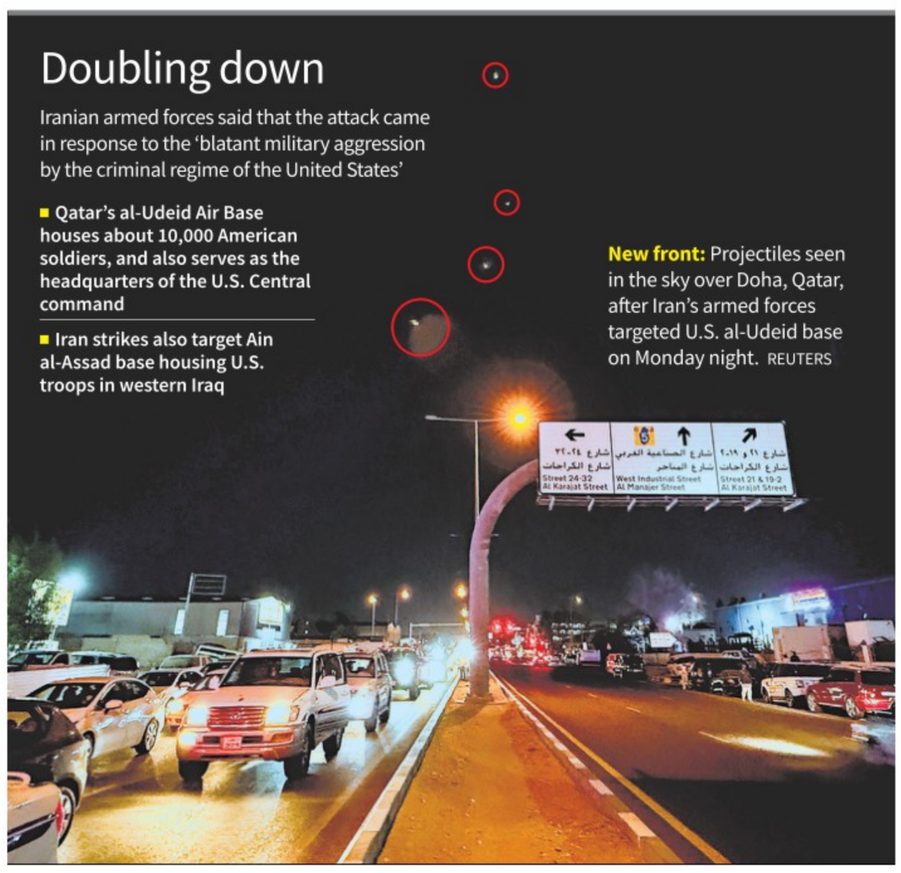
Iran launched missile attacks at the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American base in West Asia, on Monday evening in retaliation for the U.S. strikes at the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities on Sunday. Qatar said it "successfully intercepted" the missiles and that there were no deaths and injuries.

The attack came in response to the "blatant military aggression by the criminal regime of the United States" against the nuclear facilities of the Islamic Republic, the Iranian armed forces said in a statement. "Under the directive of the Supreme National Security Council and the command of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched a powerful and devastating missile strike on the al-Udeid base in Qatar," it added.

Iran will "never leave any violation of its territorial integrity, sovereignty, or national security unanswered", it said.

Qatar, which lies 190 km south of Iran across the Persian Gulf, houses about 10,000 American soldiers at the base, which also serves as the headquarters of the U.S. Central command.

Iran also targeted the Ain al-Assad base housing U.S. troops in western Iraq, an Iraqi security official told *The Associated Press*. It was not immediately clear if there was damage to the Iraq base or any injuries.



On Monday evening, Qatar's Foreign Ministry announced the temporary suspension of airspace, "aimed at ensuring safety of residents and visitors", following an advisory from the U.S. Embassy in Doha asking American citizens to move to shelters. "Out of an abundance of caution, we recommend American citizens shelter in place until further notice," the U.S. Embassy said on its website.

By 7.40 p.m., several rounds of loud explosions were heard in central Doha, with multiple projectiles stopped by interceptors illuminating the night sky. The attack lasted a few minutes, and public life in Doha remained largely unaffected.

'Airspace safe'

Qatar's Defence Ministry said its air defences "successfully intercepted" Iran's missile attack. "The incident did not result in any deaths or injuries," the Ministry said in a statement. The Ministry reiterated that the "airspace and territory of the state of Qatar are safe and that the Qatar Armed Forces are always ready to deal with any threat".

Earlier in the day, Israel carried out a series of strikes hitting government targets in Iran that followed a salvo of missiles and drones fired by Tehran at Israel. The Israeli military said it struck roads around Iran's Fordow enrichment facility, which was bombed by the U.S. on Sunday.

Israel's Defence Ministry said it attacked the Evin Prison in Tehran and the security headquarters of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guards. "The Iranian dictator will be punished with full force for attacking the Israeli home front," the Ministry said.

CONTINUED ON
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IRAN TO PAUSE IAEA TIES
» PAGE 12

Incumbent parties retain four bypoll seats; Left loses out to Congress in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After its drubbing in the Delhi Assembly election earlier this year, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was in for good news as it retained Punjab's Ludhiana West and Gujarat's Visavadar seats after results of byelections in five constituencies across four States held on June 19 were announced on Monday.

The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) retained Kaliganj in West Bengal while Nilambur in Kerala went to the Opposition Congress. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) managed to retain Kadi in Gujarat.

AAP candidate Italia Gopal, former president of the party in Gujarat, defeated his nearest rival, BJP's Kirit Patel, in Visavadar by a margin of 17,554 votes, according to the Election Commission of India (EC). The byelection was necessited after its MLA Bhayani Bhupendrabhai Gandubhai resigned from the AAP and joined the BJP. The BJP has not been able to win the seat since 2007 despite its near-total dominance in the State. However, the party managed to retain Kadi, a reserved constituency, with Rajendrakumar Chavda winning by a margin of 39,452 votes over the Congress's Ramesh Chavda. The byelection in Kadi was necessitated due to the death of BJP MLA Karsanbhai Punjabhai Solanki in February.

In Punjab, Sanjeev Arora of the ruling AAP defeated the Congress's Bharat Bhushan Ashu by 10,637 votes in Ludhiana West.

In Kerala, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government saw a setback as the Congress's Aryadan Shoukath helped the Opposition take the Nilambur seat by a margin of 11,077 votes. The son of late Congress leader Aryadan Muhammed defeated CPI(M) State secretariat member M. Swaraj.

In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress's Alifa Ahamed won Kaliganj by a whopping 50,049 votes, defeating the BJP's Ashish Ghosh. The Congress's Kabiluddin Shaikh came third with 28,348 votes.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
'VERDICT AGAINST GOVT.'
» PAGE 5

Poll pulse

AAP retained the Ludhiana West seat in Punjab and the Visavadar seat in Gujarat, while the BJP defended its stronghold of Kadi. The Opposition United Democratic Front wrested the Nilambur seat in Kerala

Victory lap: AAP leaders Saurabh Bharadwaj and Sanjay Singh celebrate in New Delhi after the party won from Punjab's Ludhiana West and Gujarat's Visavadar constituencies. PTI

Constituency	State	Winner	Party
Visavadar	Gujarat	Italia Gopal	AAP
Ludhiana West	Punjab	Sanjeev Arora	AAP
Kadi	Gujarat	Rajendrakumar (Rajubhai) Daneshwar Chavda	BJP
Nilambur	Kerala	Aryadan Shoukath	INC
Kaliganj	West Bengal	Alifa Ahmed	AITC

SOURCE: ECI

Bomb attack in Kaliganj kills nine-year-old girl

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A nine-year-old girl was killed after crude bombs were hurled at her house at Kaliganj in West Bengal on Monday, hours after the results of the bypolls were announced declaring the Trinamool Congress candidate as the winner. Family members of the girl blamed supporters of the ruling party for death.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 9

Bring back woman deported to Pak.: HC

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has ordered the Union Home Secretary to repatriate a 63-year-old woman to India after she was deported to Pakistan during the crackdown against Pakistani nationals in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Petitioner Rakshanda Rashid from Pakistan had been staying in Jammu for the past 38 years with her husband and two children.

Her daughter Falak Sheikh told *The Hindu* that for the past two months, her mother had been living alone in a hotel in Lahore. "She was here on a long-term visa [LTV], yet she was deported to Pakistan. She applied for citizenship in 1996 but the application is yet to be processed," said Ms. Sheikh, a language trainer in Jammu.

"This court is bearing in mind that the petitioner was having the LTV status at relevant point of time which per se may not have warranted her deportation, but without examining her case in better perspective and coming up with a proper order with respect to her deportation from the authorities concerned, still she came to be forced out," Justice Rahul Bharti said in an order dated June 6.

The woman was deported during a crackdown after the Pahalgam attack. FILE PHOTO

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Sharp rise in women Maoists killed in operations in Chhattisgarh since 2024

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

More than one-third of alleged Maoist cadres killed since 2024 in operations with the police and other security forces in Chhattisgarh were women, data show.

There has been a sharp increase in the percentage of women Maoist cadres being killed in security operations in the years 2024 and 2025, compared with the previous years, coinciding with increase in the number of operations amid a call by the Union Home Ministry to end Maoism by March 2026.

In 2024, the number of Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh stood at 217, out of which 74 were women, while till June 20 this year, out of 195 Maoists killed, 82 were women.

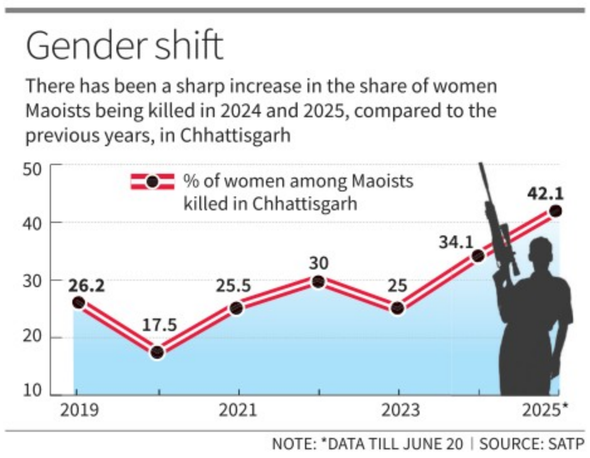
In the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the number of Maoists killed were 65, 40, 51, 30 and 20, respectively, out of which the number of women killed in the respective years stood at 17, seven, 13, nine, and five.

According to the Ministry, Maoists have formed *Bal Dastas* comprising young children in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

"The idea is to brainwash and indoctrinate young children to Maoist ideology. Most parents do not want to part with their children. But faced with coercion and threats, many poor Adivasi parents prefer to part with the girl-child. This inhuman practice by Maoists is the reason behind large number of young girls/women being present among the Maoist cadres," the Ministry said on its website.

The Ministry added that women were also pushed to the forefront of engagements with the security forces. "In spite of the Maoists professing disapproval of 'patriarchy', the number of women in top echelons of their leadership are negligible," the Ministry said.

P. Sundarraj, Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range), said that in the earlier years, women and young girls – particularly from the tribal and rural areas of the Bastar region – were often coerced or misled into joining Maoist organisations. "However, once inducted, these women cadres were largely used as foot soldiers and human shields by the leadership. Over time, they were subjected to various forms of hardship. We remain firmly committed to addressing this issue with sensitivity and determination. Our priority continues to be the promotion of voluntary surrender through humanerehabilitation policies," he said.



JAWANS WILL WIN: SHAH
» PAGE 8

2 more Cong. MLAs put govt. in a corner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In more embarrassment for the Congress government in the State, two more party MLAs on Monday vented their ire in public over the "slow paced" development and also about the alleged cash-for-house scam, an allegation made earlier by the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman B.R. Patil, who is also MLA for Aland.

While Sagar legislator Belur Gopalakrishna sought the resignation of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan in connection with the alleged scam in the allotment of houses, North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) chairman and Kagwad legislator Bharamagouda (Raju) Kage threatened to resign over the slow-paced development.

Mr. Kage said that he would meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the next few days to tender his resignation. Mr. Gopalakrishna said that the Minister should resign and face an inquiry into the allegations.

The Chief Minister, who was in Raichur ahead of his Delhi visit, said that he would call the legislators for a meeting to discuss the issue while Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons in Bengaluru that the Chief Minister and the Housing Minister would respond to the allegations. Multiple sources in the party said that though it was early to assess if other legislators affected by the lack of funds for development would also air their views, it is being seen as a pressure tactic either to secure more funds or present themselves as candidates for a Cabinet berth as and when there would be a reshuffle.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 4

Ultimate action and a golden show by young Indian paddlers

Youth power to the fore for champion U Mumba; increase in home-grown players getting game-time a welcome sign; the absence of the country's top stars, however, proves a dampener

Amol Karhadkar

Twenty-three exciting matches. Sixteen days of power-packed action. Eight teams going all guns blazing. Two nail-biting semifinals. And a new champion – U Mumba TT.

That's how the sixth edition of Ultimate Table Tennis – the franchise-based table tennis league that's getting bigger and better with every passing season ever since its post-pandemic return in 2023 – can be summed up.

While the Amdavadis, traditionally more interested in the business of sport than enjoying live sport, hardly thronged to the EKA Arena, those who did returned with memories worth cherishing.

After following the tournament, the paddlers, the coaching staff and the organisers from close quarters over 17 days in Ahmedabad, here is how the tournament panned out.

UTT or UMTT

Being a young sibling of the U Mumba outfit in the Pro Kabaddi League arena, a lot was expected of the U Mumba paddlers. But just like its kabaddi counterpart, which last won a title nine seasons ago, the five editions saw the table tennis lot earn the tag of 'underachievers.'

The team led by Bernadette Szocs – the Romanian who entered UTT as the highest-ranked paddler this season – shed the tag in style. After the first-ever player auction in UTT, where U Mumba was the first to complete its squad of six players, a lot of eyebrows were raised over its choices, especially with regard to Indian male paddlers.

But Szocs – with meticulous planning by coaches John Murphy and Jay Modak, assisted by Nishant Kulkarni – got the best out of every single individual to wipe off the 'under' from its tag and lead the team to glory. In fact, besides being the champion, U Mumba ended up being the only team to give at least one match to each of the six players in the squad.

Having heavily relied on youngsters – with all four Indians in Akash Pal, P.B. Abhinandh, Yashaswini Ghorpade and Swastika Ghosh being either in teens or the early 20s – U Mumba banked on their zest. And Lilian Bardet, the Frenchman who was Szocs' teammate in UTT 2024, brought in the maturity of an overseas paddler to form a perfect combination that went all the way.

While Szocs upped the ante when it mattered, in the big final against Jaipur Patriots, it was Yashaswini – the Bengalurean with Maharashtrian roots – that lived up to the table tennis legacy of her surname.

If her becoming the first paddler to stun Fan Siqi, who became only the second Chinese paddler to be part of UTT, was an achievement in itself, Yashaswini went one step ahead in the semifinal.

Trailing 7-5 against senior Krittwika Sinha Roy, she displayed exemplary control over her long-pimpled backhand to win all three games, with the third off the 59th golden point of the season, and helped U Mumba enter its maiden final.

With Yashaswini playing a major role in ending Goa Challengers' title defence, it was clear that the tournament will have a new champion. And U Mumba ensured that it didn't have to wait longer to carve its name on the glittering trophy.

New kids on the block

For most of the last three seasons, ever since UTT switched from an eight to six-member squad format, promising Indian paddlers had to warm the bench on match days. They would be happy to be a part of the entourage and learn by training with seasoned pros, with very little – or virtually none – game-time.

Season six witnessed a welcome change on that front as eight Indian paddlers made their UTT debuts over the fortnight. They were Akash Pal, Abhinandh and Swastika Ghosh (U Mumba), Divyansh Srivastava (Ahmedabad SG Pipers), Sayali Wani (Dempo Goa Challengers), Ananya Chande (Kolkata ThunderBlades), Taneesha Kotecha (PBG Pune Jaguars) and Payas Jain (Chennai Lions).

The fact that most of these eight paddlers – barring Swastika, Divyansh and Ananya – had spent at least a season in UTT earlier speaks about the desperation and the desire of teams to try out new talent on the big stage. It also indicates the rising quality of young Indian talent.

"It's a great sign for Indian table tennis. The more young talent on display at UTT, the better it is. The youngsters are right up there when it comes to skills, are confident irrespective of the opponents and are fearless in their approach. It's a great sign for the future," said Sachin Shetty, the Jaipur Patriots coach.

Top Indian paddlers MIA

While the promising youngsters were making a splash and some of the top global paddlers were in action, the absence of India's star paddlers was a bit of a dampener for UTT.

Three of the top Indians – Manav Thakkar and the new National men's champion Manush Shah along with Commonwealth Games queen Manika Batra – did not feature in the season.

With A. Sharath Kamal having hung up his boots after a glittering career, Manush and Manav – a Barodian and a Surti – could have drawn a local crowd in their home state. But both opted against registering for the auction.

While the Indian table tennis corridors are abuzz with multiple theories for the bespectacled duo's decision to skip UTT 2025, the UTT organisers clarified that was only due to the clash of the tournament schedule with the duo's commitments in European leagues.

Manika, on the other hand, pulled out at the last-minute due to an injury after featuring in the World Championship towards the end of the last month. It jeopardised Ahmedabad SG Pipers' season, although the lanky paddler did turn up to support the team for its inaugural match.

"It's critical for all the top Indian players to feature in UTT. It helps them raise their stature and also the tournament's," said Sweden's Tobias Bergman, the Kolkata ThunderBlades coach.

"In my home country, and all over Europe, there is a lot of interest about UTT and if the top European players get to compete with the best from India, it will be an ideal scenario."

The fact that the trio featured in a WTT event during the UTT's latter stages also did not send a right signal to the table tennis fraternity. It will hopefully be taken care of in the seasons to come.

Amending the format

Despite the final qualification spot being sealed on the last day, for a league like UTT that's still trying to attract interest from general sport fans, a simpler format would augur well.

At the moment, the eight teams play five league matches. Not only is it confusing for a fan trying to keep pace with the line-ups, it also creates a not-so-ideal situation for the franchises, both in terms of form and fixtures.

No doubt an all-play-all format will mean there will be 28 league games instead of the existing 20, but with double-headers on most days, the three-week tournament window can be respected.

While the idea can be food for thought, John Murphy, coach of U Mumba, had another suggestion.

"Instead of following the set sequence of men's singles, women's singles, mixed doubles, reverse men's singles and reverse women's singles, the team winning the toss should be allowed to choose whether to start with a male or female player," Murphy said.

"For a team like us with Bernadette Szocs, we'd want her to open the tie. It could also prevent the final singles from always being a women's match."

If implemented, the tournament will add another dimension to the planning of the teams and may keep most matches alive till the end.

Vitamin M

A franchise league is nothing but a commercial product. For most non-cricket sports leagues in India, it results in the owners and the promoters bleeding to death.

UTT is an exception, since it's backed by co-promoters who are passionate about the sport and not all interested in making money through the league.

'Let the franchise owners break even first. And making money is not the only objective of UTT' seems to be the motto of Niraj Bajaj and Vita Dani - two of the leading industrialists who have joined hands for UTT.

Thanks to its consecutive titles, Dempo Goa Challengers became the first team to enter the green on the balance sheet.

Steady growth

While two others are likely to break even in the next edition, Vita is pleased with the steady growth of the league in terms of numbers - both financial and in terms of viewership.

At least a couple of teams, including new entrants Kolkata ThunderBlades, managed to raise in excess of ₹50 lakh through jersey sponsorships. It is a welcome sign for a relatively small-scale league like UTT.

"It will take a little time but we are moving in the right direction and quickly. For us, as league owners, our ROI is in how Indian table tennis does more than financials because we are not here to only make money. It is more important that as a country, we do well," Vita said.

THE GIST

- Besides being the champion, U Mumba ended up being the only team to give at least one match to each of the six players in the squad
- For most of the last three seasons, ever since UTT switched from an eight to six-member squad format, promising Indian paddlers had to warm the bench on match days
- Season six saw as many as eight Indian paddlers make their UTT debut

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: SWR_SBC_COA_09 _Stations Dated : 18-06-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of COA at Kuppam, Baiyyappanahalli, Whitefield, Channapatna, Hindupur, Krishnarajapurm, Kolar, Tumakuru and Dharmapuri stations in Bengaluru Division and integrating the same with datalogger for automatic feeding of train arrival/departure timings.	Rs. 49,58,419.06

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 10-07-2025**

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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(Re-tender) Mysuru Division Supply and Provision of 8 Nos. of Lifts and Power supply arrangements.	Rs. 30,79,776/-

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For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru

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ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

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DIPR/MNG/368/MPL/25-26

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2025/B/6336913 **Date: 23-06-2025**

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for **Services-Fabrication work of Ambulance.** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2025/B/6336913
2	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	23-06-2025
3	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	30/06/2025 at 4:00 PM in UPMSCL Office, SUDA Bhawan, Lucknow
4	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	14/07/2025 upto 11:00 PM.
5	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	14/07/2025 at 11:30 PM
6	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-(IREPS) Tender Notice No. 16 UBL 2025-26 Dated: 17-06-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No	Name of Work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division - Sub Work-I:** Vijayapura-Hotgi section - CTR(P) in patches in DN line for a length of 10.4 Tkm. **Sub Work-II**: Gadag-Hotgi section-TRR(P)-40.9 Tkm (D-mark mail rail renewal) in patches in Nimbal-Hotgi section. **Sub Work-III**: Gadag-Hotgi section-TRR(P)- 31.3 Tkm in patches in Vijayapura-Nimbal section (Two Packet System)	Rs. 15,32,56,899/-
2	**Hubballi Division- Sub Work-I:** TTR(TWS+WCMSC+FS) of 32 in Hubballi-Gadag and Hubballi-Karjagi Section. **Sub Work-II**: Hubballi-Gadag-TFR-26.500 Tkm (Without ERC)-35.500 Tkm & (with ERC) 35.500 TKM.	Rs. 2,28,89,450/-
3	**Hubballi Division-** Gadag-Hotgi section TSR(P) for a length of 10.95 Tkm in UP in Mulvad-Jumnal (MVD-JML) Section	Rs. 7,00,26,176/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 17-07-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/208/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination, Hubballi**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

MILITARY HOSPITAL WELLINGTON REGISTRATION OF VENDORS FOR THE FY FROM 2025-26 TO 2027-28

1.the Commandant, Military Hospital Wellington Invites Applications from Pharmaceutical Vendors who are Authorized Stockists / Institutional Suppliers/distributors or Original Manufacturers of Drugs Interested to Supply General Drugs / Surgical Items and Iv Fluids / Ophthalmic and ENT Consumables / Hospital Laboratory Reagents/ Radiology Consumables/ / Medical Gases for Military Hospital Wellington and Affiliated Echs Polyclinics for The Fy 2025-26 to 2027-28. Vendors are Required to Register on Defence Procurement Portal and Gem Portal Mandatorily.

2.Application forms can be downloaded from Defence Procurement Portal **Https://www.defproc.gov.in** using **Tender Id : 2025_army_715805_1 Dt : 20 Jun 2025 .**

3. Application duly Completed in all Respects with Connected Documents Both online and offline to reach Military Hospital Wellington by **21 Jul 2025.** **CONTACT NO : 9087543231**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

Tender Notice No. TBM-SG-CN-2025-26-06-OT Dated:20 / 06 / 2025 (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:

Item No	Name of the work				
1	PROVISION OF SIGNALLING ARRANGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RE-DEVELOPMENT OF KUMBAKONAM RAILWAY STATION.				
Item No	**Cash value in Rupees (₹)**	**Bid Security (EMD) (Rupees) (₹)**	**Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site**	**Cost of Tender Document (₹)**	**Period of Completion in month(s)**
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	9,85,81,313.22	6,42,900	11/07/2025	0	NINE (9)

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** of Indian Railways. **The supply/ work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.**

Dy.CHIEF SIGNAL &TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEER / CONSTRUCTION / S.Rly., TAMBARAM, CHENNAI - 600045

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & G.W.D DIVISION, TUMKUR

Ref No.03/2025-26 KW-1,KW-2 &KW-3 (TWO COVER SYSTEM) KPP Portal DT.19.06.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFFICATION Dated 19.06.2025

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P act with latest amendments, Item wise "KPPP" Portal tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A: 4702-MOT Pradhana, 4702-SCP, 4702-TSP, 4711- Pravaha and Nabard-29 works from the elgible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. Tender publishing details are as given below.

1. Tender will be published through KPP Portal on: Dated: 20-06-2025 at 16.00 Hours. 2. Last date of queries on Dated: 25-06-2025 at 11.30 Hours. 3. Last date for Receipt of completed tenders through KPP portal may be uploaded before 17.00 Hours on Dated: 30-06-2025. 4. Technical Bid will be opened on Dated: 01-07-2025 at 17.05 Hours. 5. Financial Bid will be opened on Dated: 02-07-2025 at 17.10 Hours.

For further details, visit Kpp portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ or from the office undersigned, on working days. If the office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I & G.W.D Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/164/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ

ಜಂಟಿ ಕೃಷಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ

ದೂ.–08539–221633 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 220226

JDAK/OS/AC/2025-26/484 Date:21.06.2025

Tender Notification

Joint Director of Agriculture Koppal is invites Man Power supply agencies for the supply Technical Assistant-20 and Driver-21 Total-41 Karntaka Transparency in public rocurement act 1999 Through e-procurement for one year under of 2025-26. Interested Bidders are visit e-procurement portal http.//kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

1.Tender publishing date **21.06.2025** 2.Aproximate tender Annual cost: 1,17,61,267/- 3.EMD Amount ರೂ. 2,35,225/- 4.Last Date for submition of tender **03.07.2025** Time: 05:30 PM 5.Time,Date and Place opening of technical bid Date: **05.07.2025** Time:11:00 AM Place: Joint Director of Agriculture Office, Koppal 6.Time, Date and Place Opening of Financial bid Date: **07.07.2025** Time:11:00 AM Place: Joint Director of Agriculture Office, Koppal.

Sd/- Joint Director of Agriculture Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/179/KSMCA-2025-26

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited

(Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP only)

Chief Engineer (Ele)., Chitradurga Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga invites Tender for the following through KPP portal in two cover system.

1) Enq. No. & Date: CEE/CZ/SEE(0)/AEE-1/001/GM/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2025. **Particulars: Providing 218 numbers of Temporary Gangmen Service to the C, 0&M, Sub-divisions of Davanagere circle, BESCOM for a period of six months i.e from the date of Contract Award through an agency.** Approx Amount put to tender: **Rs.2,72,19,298/-.** EMD shall be paid: **Rs.4,08,289/-.** Contract period: **Six months.**

2) Enq. No. & Date: CEE/CZ/SEE(0)/AEE-1/002/GM/2025-26, Date: 13.05.2025. **Particulars: Providing 333 numbers of Temporary Gangmen Service to the C, 0&M, Sub-divisions of Tumkur circle, BESCOM for a period of six months i.e from the date of Contract Award through an agency.** Approx Amount put to tender: **Rs.4,13,71,623/-.** Contract period: **Six months.** EMD shall be paid: **Rs.6,20,574/-.**

Time Schedule: a) Bid document available on kpp portal: **25-06-2025 at 11:00 hrs. b)** Pre bid meeting: **04-07-2025 @ 11:00 hrs. c)** Last date for submission of queries: **16-07-2025 upto 16:00 hrs. d)** Last date for submission of bid document: **25-07-2025 upto 17:00 hrs. e)** Date and time of opening Technical bid: **28-07-2025 @ 11:00 hrs.**

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through Public Procurement portal from the **website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or **after 25-06-2025.** Aspiring bidders need to register on e-Procurement portal.

All the payments such as tender processing fee, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further any clarification contact helpdesk **080-68948777 and 080-46010000 or E-mail:hphelpdesk.blr@rteservices.com.**

Chief Engineer (Ele).,
O & M Zone,
BESCOM, Chitradurga.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂವೈಜೆಡ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26/ ದಿ.21.06.2025

ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಯೂನಿಟ್–1,2,3 ಮತ್ತು 4ರ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 3ನೇ ಕರೆ)
(ಇ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ 1) Supply of Clean Buffalo Meat/ Bovine Liver and Heart Indent No.60/25-26 Dt.21.06.25 2) Supply of Fish,Prawns and Dressed Skinless Chicken Indent No. 62/25-26 Dt.21.06.25 3) Supply of Reed Grass and other grass Indent No. 61/25-26 Dt.21.06.25 ಮತ್ತು 4) Supply of Food Grains Mysuru Indent No.66/25-26 Dt.21.06.25 ಅನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/DDMYS/500/KSMCA/304/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & FOREST DEPARTMENT
TAMIL NADU COASTAL RESTORATION MISSION

Notification No: 02/2025, Dated 23.06.2025

Ref No: IN – TNSHORE – 497114 – CW – RFB

Title: Construction of International Dugong Conservation Centre at Manora, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu

The Chief Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai invites bids from eligible bidders for the work named above. Bids are invited under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) - National Open Competitive Procurement. Detailed Notice of Invitation for Bids (RFB) and the Bid document for above work would be available at **https://tntenders.gov.in** starting from 24.06.2025 at 15.00 hours.

Chief Mission Director,
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission
9th Floor, CMRL Building, Anna Salai,
Nandanam, Chennai- 35

DIPR/3185/TENDER/2025

FORM NO. RSC-4

(Pursuant to Rule 3(3) of the NCLT (Procedure for Reduction of Share Capital of Company) Rules, 2016

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPLAY LAW TRIBUNAL
BENGALURU BENCH, BENGALURU
COMPANY PETITION NO. 70/BB/2025

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 66 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND THE RULES FRAMED THEREUNDER.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF REDUCTION OF SHARE CAPITAL OF
K MOHAN AND COMPANY (EXPORTS) PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U18101KA2004PTC033743)

K Mohan and Company (Exports) Private Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having registered office at No.372, 1st Floor, Cabin No.106 WS No.6th Cross, Golden Square, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru- Karnataka-590027

– Applicant Company

Publication of Notice

Notice may be taken that an application under Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 for an order sanctioning the reduction of equity share capital of the above Company from Rs. 22,00,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Two Crore) comprising of 2,20,00,000 (Two Crore Twenty Lakhs) equity shares of Rs.10/- (Rupees Ten only) each to Rs. 1,00,000/- (One lakh only) comprising of 10,000 (Ten Thousand) equity shares of Rs.10/- (Rupees Ten only) each was presented by the Company before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, Bengaluru ('NCLT') on **15th day of May 2025.**

The notices to individual Creditors have been issued. The list of Creditors prepared as on the **08th day of May 2025**, by the Company is available at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection on all working days during 11 AM to 4 PM for a period of three months from the date of this notice.

If any Creditor of the Company has any objection to the application or the details of the list of Creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting documents) and details about his name and address and the name and address of the Authorised Representative, if any, to the undersigned at the Registered office of the Company situated at No. 372,1st Floor, cabin, No.106 WS No. 6, 6th Cross, Golden Square, Wilson Garden and on email to prm@kmohan.com within three months of date of this notice.

In case no objections are received as indicated above, the entries in the list of creditors will, in all proceedings under above application to reduce the share capital of the Company, be treated as correct.

It may also be noted that a hearing has been fixed for Monday, 28th day of July, 2025 on which the Tribunal shall hear the application. In case any Creditor intends to attend the hearing he/ she should make a request along with his/ her objections, if any.

This notice is being published in pursuance to the order by the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 12th day of June 2025.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
(Pooja Raju Mahtaney)
Managing Director
DIN: 00152968

Date: June 24, 2025
Place: Bengalurus

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL,BENGALURU (DRT-2)
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC 145/2024 in OA No. 147/2021

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK V/S. SRI SATISH CHANDRA C AND OTHERS

To **(CH) Karnataka Grameena Bank,** Huladlenahalli Branch, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka **... Certificate Holder**

Versus

(CD1): Sri Satish Chandra C S/o. Late Chandrappa, M/s. K. G. Enterprises, Tekal Railway Station,Tekal, Malur Taluk, Kolar District - 563 137, Karnataka.
Also at : Sri Satish Chandra C S/o. Late Chandrappa, K. G. Halli Malur Taluk, Kolar District.
(CD 2): Sri Mahesh Chandra C S/o. Late Chandrappa, K. G. Halli Malur Taluk, Kolar District.
(CD 3): Sri Venkateshppa T. S/o. Sri Thimmarayappa, R/at Yelavahalli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District - 563 137, Karnataka.
(CD 4): Sri H. N. Anjinappa S/o. Narayanappa, R/at Tekal, Malur Taluk, Kolar District - 563 137, Karnataka. **....Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-2)** in **OA /147/2021**an amount of **Rs.4198609/-** (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Nine Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 15.5% compound interest Monthly w.e.f. 31.12.2020 till realization and cost of Rs.67005/-(Rupees Sixty Seven Thousand Five Only) has become due against you jointly and severally. **2)** You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.**3)** You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4)** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings.**5)** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay:(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings.(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **15.04.2024**

Sd/- Recover Officer ,
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT-2)

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961 read with RDDBFI Act 1993 which is reproduced below:
"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representatives or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, not shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other moneys contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

AUTHOR MEET PROGRAMME

BGS National Public School, Hulimavu, Bengaluru hosted an inspiring Author Meet featuring Ms. Amrita Gandhi, celebrated writer and great-granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi. Organised by the Library Department, the event captivated students and staff with Ms. Gandhi's storytelling and excerpts from her book Royal-ish. She shared personal anecdotes about Mahatma Gandhi, as narrated by her father, offering rare insights into his legacy. A meaningful interaction with Principal Dr. Malini M. Dutta and a lively Q&A session further enriched the experience. The programme was a memorable celebration of literature, heritage, and the power of words.

CYCLOTHON AND WALKATHON

Rashtrotthana Vidya Kendra, Banashankari organised a vibrant Cyclothon and Walkathon to promote environmental awareness and sustainable living. The event began near Rajarajeshwari Temple and was flagged off by Sub-Inspector Sri Naveen. Students, parents, teachers, and staff marched to Rashtrotthana Hospital, distributing seed balls and chanting eco-friendly slogans. At the hospital, students performed yoga, music, and a street play on environmental conservation. Chief Guest Dr. Shaila H.M praised their efforts and encouraged tree planting. The day reflected unity, purpose, and commitment, highlighting the school's dedication to nurturing responsible citizens and protecting nature.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATED

The Oxford English School ICSE/ISC observed World Environment Day with an inspiring address by Principal Ms. Meenakshi K. Narayanan, urging students to view environmental conservation as a patriotic duty. She emphasised that every tree planted and resource saved is an act of love for the country. Reflecting on national unity, she highlighted the importance of supporting the armed forces while strengthening the nation through responsible living. Encouraging students to be "warriors of peace" and "guardians of nature," she concluded with a pledge to protect the environment with the same care as one's own family.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai: Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

EXTRAORDINARY

NOTIFICATION

PART-II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)

Bengaluru, 16th June 2025

Corrigendum to the Notification issued vide S.O. No. 1987 (E) dated 02.05.2025

Corrigendum to Publication No. PUB/105/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 dated 15.05.2025

S.O.2698(E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Section (1) of Section 20A of . the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely, "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 38 at Kyatsandra - Tumkur @ Ch: 65/300-400 (Baddihalli road, near fire station, Kyatsandra Village)", in the State of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act;

Every such objection shall be made to the **'Competent Authority',** namely, Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumkur - Raydurga Railway Project, Tumkur and Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru as **'Arbitrator'** for the land acquisition process required for the "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 38 at Kyatsandra - Tumkur @ Ch: 65/300-400 (Baddihalli road, near fire station, Kyatsandra Village)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections;

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final; The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project for construction of Two lane ROB with service road in lieu of Level Crossing No. 38 (Baddihalli gate) in the state of Karnataka.

District: Tumakuru **Taluk:**Tumakuru
Hobli: Kasaba **Village:** Devarayapattana (Kyathsandra Area)

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Beneficiary	Extent (in Acres - Gunta)				Classification of Land
			Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	
1.	104/2	Director General. Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department	0-07	-	-	0-07	Dry
2.	105	Govt. Land	0-06	-	0-06	-	Govt. Land
3.	107/2	K. S. Shanthaiah	0-13	-	0-00 1/4	0-12 3/4	Dry
4.	107/3	K. S. Shanthaiah. Gangambika W/o Late Umesh (Joint)	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
		Total	**0-28**	**-**	**0-06 1/4**	**0-21 3/4**	**-**

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Yogananda Babu Yagani)
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/General/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/216/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)

Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

EARC/2025-26/50/RV/01 Date: 16-06-2025

Mr Ramesh V No.4205, 2nd B Main Road Girinagar 4th Phase Banashankari, 3rd Stage Bangalore , Karnataka -560 085	**Mr Ramesh V** No.13, 3rd Cross, Ex Chairman Layout Banasawadi, K R Puram, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore – 560 043
Ms Shanthala R No.4205, 2nd B Main Road Girinagar 4th Phase Banashankari, 3rd Stage Bangalore , Karnataka -560 085	**Ms Shanthala R** No.13, 3rd Cross, Ex Chairman Layout Banasawadi, K R Puram, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore – 560 043
M/s. Trident Overseas Traders No.4205, 2nd B Main Road Girinagar 4th Phase Banashankari, 3rd Stage Bangalore , Karnataka -560 085	**M/s. Trident Overseas Traders** No.61, B, Ground Floor, 6th Main 4th Phase, 7th Block, Banagirinagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore -560 085
M/s. Trident Overseas Traders Property No.25, Corporation No.95/60 BBMP Katha No.60, Situated at 36th A Cross, 28th Main Jayanagar, 9th Block, Bangalore -560 041	

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sub: Notice for Sale of Secured Assets of Mr Ramesh V, Ms Shanthala R and M/s. Trident Overseas Traders ("Borrowers") under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules") read with Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, possession of which has been taken over under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with Rules

As you are aware that pursuant to the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd. **("Encore ARC")** has acquired the financial assistance granted to the Borrowers by the Aditya Birla Finance Ltd **("ABFL")** along with all underlying securities vide an Assignment Agreement dated 31.12.2024.

Prior to the acquisition of the financial assistance by Encore ARC, the Authorised Officer of ABFL had issued a notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act on 25.03.2024 advising you to pay the dues as mentioned therein.

As you have failed & neglected to pay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice issued under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, the Authorised Officer of ABFL took over the possession of the Secured Assets, as per the description given below on 20.11.2024 . That, pursuant to the aforesaid assignment, the possession of the Secured Assets lies with the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC.

Please treat this as 30 days' notice under Rule 8(6) of the Rules. Upon expiry of the notice period of 30 days', the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC shall take steps for selling the Secured Assets as more particularly mentioned hereinbelow by way of public auction including e- auction/private treaty or any other modes provided under the Rules.

In case of sale by way of public e-auction, the detailed terms and conditions of the sale including reserve price, earnest money deposit etc. will also be uploaded on Encore ARC's website i.e. https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com as per Rule 8 (7) of Rules, simultaneously with the publication of public e-Auction sale notice in the Form given in Appendix-IV A of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The Borrowers'/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Asset by repaying the entire dues of **Rs.90,76,396/- (Rupees Ninety Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Six Only) as on 10.06.2025,** together with further interest w.e.f. 11.06.2025 and other admissible charges & costs thereon.

A final opportunity is being given to Borrowers/Mortgagor to redeem the Secured Assets accordingly, failing which, Encore ARC in its capacity as Trustee of EARC-Bank-032-Trust shall proceed with the sale of the aforesaid Secured Assets as per the Rules.

Yours faithfully,

Description of Immovable Property (Secured Assets):

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP Katha No.13, PID No.88 -121-13, Old No.247/2, Measuring East to West 3o ft and North to South 40 ft, in total measuring 1200 Sq. ft., Situated at 3rd cross, ex-chairman layout, Banaswadi, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, currently under BBML ward No.88, and bounded on: East by : Private property, West by : Road, North by : Private property, South by : Road.

For Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited
Authorised Officer

Forest Dept. reclaims 120 acres of land worth over ₹4,000 crore

A total of 248 acres, with a market value of more than ₹8,000 crore, that were encroached upon cleared in two years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An encroachment clearance drive in progress in the Kadugodi forestland in the eastern part of Bengaluru on Monday.

Forest Department officials on Monday undertook one of their biggest encroachment drives in recent times in Bengaluru. Officials cleared around 120 acres of forestland in East Bengaluru whose market value is estimated to be more than ₹4,000 crore.

A team of Forest Department officials cleared the encroachment on forestland on Survey No. 1 of Kadugodi Plantation, Bidarahalli Hobli.

Officials said that temporary industrial sheds which had been erected in the encroached plot were demolished during the encroachment drive along with a few under construction buildings. "Few temporary sheds had come up in the forestland, residential plots were drawn up and sold to individuals with any proper documents within this 120 acres of forestland," officials said. Officials commenced the encroachment clearance operation under tight police security using earth movers. Upon reclaiming it they marked boundaries and planted saplings of native tree species. At a recent meeting conveyed by Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on the Kadugodi forest area he had instructed officials to clear the encroached forestland as per the rules. In the wake of Bengaluru's green cover decreasing day by day, the Minister had directed officials that breathing spaces should be protected and forestland encroachment should be cleared.

Lung space

"The Supreme Court has said that once a forest is always a forest. In accordance with this we have recovered 120 acres of forestland in Kadugodi. By recovering this land we will be increasing the lung space of Bengaluru. I had apprised the Chief Minister about this encroachment and with the help of the Police Department we are clearing the encroachment," Mr Khandre said.

Officials added that a total of around 711 acres of land was given to the government by the Mysore Maharaja's in 1896 and in 1907 it was declared as a reserve forest.

"It was subsequently allotted to various departments and the remaining 120 acres of land was encroached which is being reclaimed," officials said. A total of 248 acres of forest encroachment has been cleared in two years by officials which includes Monday's encroachment drive in Kadugodi. The total market value of the 248 acres of forestland is said to be more than ₹8,000 crore.

Gunman, driver of former MP arrested in road rage incident, Anantkumar Hegde also booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Anantkumar Hegde FILE PHOTO

A family allegedly did not let the SUV of the former MP pass despite the driver honking several times that they give way

The Dobbspet police have arrested the gunman and driver of former Union Minister and ex-MP Anantkumar Hegde for allegedly assaulting a 28-year-old businessman in a road rage incident on Monday.

Accused no. 3

Mr. Hegde has also been named as accused number three in the first information report.

The two along with the former MP were heading to Bengaluru from Tumakuru where they confronted Saif Khan, a businessman from Nelamangala and his family who were returning home by car.

The family allegedly did not let the SUV of the former MP pass despite the driver honking several times that they give way. Irked by this, the driver and the gunman, a police constable, confronted Saif Khan, allegedly dragged him out of his car and assaulted him, resulting in the businessman suffering injuries and losing his tooth.

The family along with other passers-by stopped the SUV and informed the police who rushed to the spot and took the accused to the station.

Based on a complaint, the police arrested the driver and the gunman charging them with assault and criminal intimidation. Initially, Mr. Hegde was not booked, but the victim's family insisted that he be booked, alleging it was he who instigated the attack, sources said.

Questioning

When last checked, Mr. Hegde was at the office of the Nelamangala Deputy Superintendent of Police and was being questioned, though not arrested.

The accused have been charged under Sections 117 (voluntarily causing grevious hurt), 126 (wrongful restraint), 74 (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty), 351/4 (criminal intimidation), and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023.

Man arrested for sexually harassing beautician

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accused have filed a counter-complaint, alleging assault

A 26-year-old beautician was sexually harassed, and assaulted by a group of drunk men on the street after she objected to their sexual overtures in Bannerghatta on Sunday.

Humiliated and embarrassed, the victim called her friend, a gym trainer for help, who reached the spot and assaulted one of the harassers and was eventually hospitalised. The entire incident was captured by CCTV cameras, based on which the Bannerghatta police have arrested the accused charging them for sexual harassment, outraging the modesty of a woman, assault and criminal intimidation and are further investigating.

According to the police, the victim was out to buy groceries around 4 p.m. on Sunday in Renuka Yellamma Layout near Mailasandra. The accused, under the influence of alcohol, confronted her and harassed her soliciting sexual favours. CCTV footage showed the accused misbehaved with her by making lewd gestures and verbally harassing, and even tried to touch her inappropriately.

The victim, objected and shouted back raising alarm for which the accused slapped her and manhandled her when she tried to escape.

The men reportedly thrashed her when she tried to resist the harassment and defend herself. In the clip, she was seen trying to fight back. When passers-by rushed to her help, she escaped and called her male friend to narrate the ordeal.

The victim later filed a complaint based on which the police have arrested the accused. The accused have also filed a counter-complaint alleging assault. The police have registered a case and further investigations are on.

Notice served on Dayananda in Bengaluru stampede incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A scene at one of the gates of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium after an unruly RCB fans tried to gain forcible entry during the IPL victory celebration in Bengaluru on June 4.

Deputy Commissioner G. Jagadeesha, heading the magisterial inquiry into the stampede at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during celebration for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) team winning IPL-2025 on June 4, issued a notice on Monday to the former Police Commissioner B. Dayananda to appear before the probe. Mr. Dayananda is learnt to have sought more time to appear before the inquiry.

The magisterial inquiry that began by questioning victims in the stampede, has till date questioned and recorded statements of over 40 police personnel, including senior police officials of the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) who were deployed for security cover at the stadium when the stampede broke out.

Finally, the inquiry has begun against the five officers, from inspector of Cubbon Park Police to the city Police Commissioner whom the State government held responsible for the stampede and suspended on June 6.

The inquiry has questioned and recorded the statements of A.V. Girish, who was inspector of Cubbon Park Police Station on Monday and Assistant Commissioner of Police C. Balakrishna on Saturday. The inquiry of the three IPS officers - Deputy Commissioner of Police Shekhar H.T., Additional Commissioner Vikash Kumar Vikash and former Police Commissioner B. Dayananda is pending. Sources said Mr. Dayananda is likely to appear before the inquiry and record his statement in the end after the inquiry of all other officers is completed.

Meanwhile, the one man judicial inquiry led by former High Court of Karnataka judge Micheal D'Cunha has also begun its inquiry and has recorded statements of several police officers, including those who were present at the spot of the stampede on June 4.

HC appoints senior advocate S. Susheela as *amicus curiae*

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday appointed senior advocate S. Susheela as *amicus curiae* to assist it in the proceedings on the PIL petition, which the court had *suo motu* initiated on the issue of death of 11 persons on June 4 stampede outside M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) team's victory celebration in Bengaluru.

'Provide documents'

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice V. Kameswar Rao and Justice C.M. Joshi passed the order during the hearing of the petition while directing the State government to provide copies of all documents, including the report submitted in sealed cover by the government.

Meanwhile, the Bench declined to express any view or make any comment on the plea made on behalf of the Royal Challengers Sports Private Ltd. (RCSPL), which owns RCB cricket team, to pay already announced compensation amounts to the legal heirs of the deceased persons.

Approval

Pointing out to the court that RCSPL had made public announcement about its commitment to pay ₹10 lakh as compensation to the legal heir of the deceased persons before the registration criminal case on stampede incident, advocate of the company said that they want approval from the court to make payment of compensation now as making such payment during the pendency of criminal proceedings should not held adversely against them.

While requesting Ms. Susheela to file her response, the court adjourned further hearing on the petition till July 1.

Techie dies in hit-and-run case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old software engineer was killed in a hit-and-run accident on Outer Ring Road near Kalyan Nagar on Sunday.

The deceased Salaguna Pradeep, a native of Andhra Pradesh was working in a tech firm and residing in a rented house in Kalkere. He was returning home on his motorcycle when an unidentified vehicle knocked him down.

Passers-by rushed Pradeep to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The Banasawadi traffic police have registered a hit-and-run case and analysing CCTV footage to identify the vehicle involved in the accident.

KAMS files complaint against State child rights commission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has filed a complaint with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) against the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) alleging harassment.

The association accused the State commission of targeting private schools. "KSCPCR is targeting only private unaided schools and also violating the norms by bringing police to the schools campuses. The KSCPCR officials have repeatedly entered the private schools without prior notice, directly entering class rooms, sending teachers outside and talking to students behind closed doors and this amounts to trespassing," the complaint claims.

The complaint also mentions a case in which the State commission's representatives "threatened" school authorities into refunding fees to a student who was detained in class 9, as per rules.

KAMS has urged immediate action against the KSCPCR, an inquiry by NCPCR keeping the chairperson of KSCPCR and other members under suspension.

Aishwarya Gowda gold cheating case: ED questions D.K. Suresh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former MP D.K. Suresh speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Officials of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Monday questioned former MP, D.K. Suresh, in a money laundering case against city-based businesswoman Aishwarya Gowda, who had cheated several people on the pretext of gold business ventures posing as sister of Mr. Suresh.

Aishwarya Gowda is alleged to have used the name of Mr. Suresh, who is the brother of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, to cheat several jewellers to the tune of ₹8 crore. She was arrested by the ED in April.

Mr. Suresh was at the ED office for over six hours on Monday. After the questioning, Mr. Suresh said he had cooperated with the investigation, and officials had asked him to appear before the agency again on July 8. "My name has been misused and I had already complained about it to the city police. Neither do I know her personally nor have had any financial transactions with her," he said.

The former MP further said that he wouldn't say ED was targeting him. "Several people had given her money after she dropped my name. Many people who lost money have mentioned my name and hence ED had summoned me and I have cooperated with them," he said.

Meanwhile, ED officials provisionally attached properties worth ₹3.98 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 related to Aishwarya Gowda and others for being found involved in the offence.

The attached properties include immovable properties in the form of flats, constructed building, and land worth ₹2.01 crore and movable properties in the form of cash and vehicle, worth ₹1.97 crore, the ED said in a statement on Monday.

The agency initiated the investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered at various police stations in the State against Aishwarya Gowda, her husband Harish K.N., and others under various sections of IPC and BNS.

According to the complaint, Aishwarya Gowda, Harish and others entered into a criminal conspiracy to defraud and cheat several individuals by taking gold, cash and funds through bank accounts from them promising high rate of returns.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 11/2025/SBC
Dated: 19-06-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Description of brief : Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Compressed air pipeline. **Qty-01 Set**
Tender No. L8255384A

Last date for submission/Tender Due on : **Upto 10:30 hrs. on 14-07-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/220/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, WAPANG TOSHI AO, s/o: Maputemjin Jamir, r/o: No 10, Pranavam Enclave 5th Block HBR Layout, 19th Main, 24th Cross, Bengaluru–560045. Have Changed My Name To Wapang Toshi Jamir. Affidavit Date On 19/06/2025

I, RADHIKA Chileveru, w/o: Shravan Kumar Mamidala, r/o: Flat–102, Prashanth Residency, 15th Cross, 2nd Main, Kuvempu Rd, Vignan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560075. Have Changed My Name As Radhika Mamidala. Affidavit Dated On 19/06/25

I, NEETHU Dhaipule Narayan, d/o: Narayan Rao Dhaiphule Gundujirao, r/o: B.No 452, F No.002, Arya Shikhar Apts, 6th Cross, RBI Layout, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru – 560078. Have Changed my Name as Neethu Dhaiphule Narayan. Affidavit dated on 21/06/25.

I, Jillian Rozario, DOB : 04/05/1962, D/o No.SL-773A (Late) Capt Samuel Joseph Rozario, R/a Flat No.401, SMR Vinay Crescents Apartments, Hennur Main Road Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Jillian Elizabeth Rozario vide affidavit dt: 20.06.2025 sworn before Notary XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

I, Hitherto Known as Nidarshan Nukul S/o Janardhana Gupta Residing at 32143 Prestige Falcon City, Kanakapura Road, Konanakunte, Konanakunte Cross Metro Station. Vtc: Bangalore South. Po: Konanakunte, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka 560062, Have Changed My Name and Shall Hereafter Be Known as N J Nidarshan for All Future Purposes.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC in General is hereby notified that my client Mrs. PREMANJALI, W/o. Mahantesh, residing at No. 22, 1st Cross, Chikkanna Layout, Mahadevapura, Bangalore –560048, my client had purchased the schedule property from Sri. D.Puttappa, through Sale Deed bearing document No. BNS–1–10208–2013–14, stored in CD No. BNSD289, dated 07–11–2013, registered in the Sub Registrar Banaswadi, Bangalore whereas the original document pertaining to the schedule including the sale deed mentioned above were Lost / Misplaced and Police complaint has been lodged FIR No. 1665317/2025. If anyone traces the document and / or has any objections based on legal claim/s if any, is required to produce / lodge the same before the undersigned either in person or by send it under RPAD with 15 (FIFTEEN) DAYS from the date of this publication. SCHEDULE PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of the schedule Property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No. 16, formed in Property No. 69/3, Katha No. 20/69/3, situated at Aduru Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, now Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 600 square feet, bounded on East by : Site No. 15, West by : Remaining Portion of Same Site No. 16, North by : Private Property, South by : 30 feet Wide Road, Contact No. 9380873080, E–Mail : balaji.thebalu99@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to general public that the schedule property mentioned below is **Sub-Judice** before the Assistant commissioner, Bengaluru South Sub-Division at Bengaluru in **Misc (SC)-CR.No.43/2022-2023 against Sri. Roopesh Reddy. R, S/o. Sri. Rajashekar Reddy. S,** Grand-son of Late. Smt.Gowramma & Late. Shamanna Reddy which is pending for adjudication.

Further the above said Roopesh Reddy is trying to sell the property by suppressing the facts to third parties by creating illegal documents in his name. In fact my clients **Smt. Gayathri Devi. S and Sri. Manjunath. S**, both are children of Late. Smt. Gowramma & Late. Shamanna Reddy, who are also co-owners of the schedule property.

Hence if any person/s who deal with schedule property mentioned below in any manner what so ever, are warned not to deal with the schedule property with **Sri.Roopesh Reddy. R, S/o. Sri. Rajashekar Reddy. S.**

Further if any person/s who deals without consent of my clients and the same is their risk, my client will not be liable or responsible at the same time any transaction done by any person/s in respect of the schedule property will not binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THE PART AND PARCEL of the immovable **old property No.32, New Property No.32/3,** measuring East to West: 48 feet and North to South: 112 feet, situated at **G.M. Narayana Reddy Layout, Konappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk** and consisting of 36 flats, bounded on:

EAST BY: Road, **WEST BY:** Property of Rani Prakash Rajkumar Vishwanath, **NORTH BY:** Property of Manjunatha Reddy, **SOUTH BY:** Vasantha's Property.

K. Mohan, Advocate,
No.64, 4th Cross, INDIRANAGAR
2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560 038
Mobile. No. 9845234925
Bangalore Dated : 23-06-2025

Yeast shows physics can give rise to multicellular life sans mutations

Scientists' consensus is that multicellular organisms evolved billions of years ago when mutations accumulated over time. But a new study suggests physical and chemical phenomena alone could have helped unicellular organisms evolve into multicellular ones before genetic changes appeared

Sayantan Datta

By the time Nishant Narayanasamy joined Shashi Thutupalli's lab at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru in 2019, the lab had a new guest: a yeast colony that had seemingly grown way beyond its expected size.

The snowflake yeast had been shipped from William Ratcliff's laboratory at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the U.S. Regular yeast – the same organism that makes bread fluffy – grows as a single cell. When it reaches a certain size, a small bump appears on its surface. The yeast's nucleus, the compartment that holds its genetic material, splits into two and moves into this bud. The bud grows until it reaches a certain size and eventually falls off from the parent, making new yeast.

But a small change in snowflake yeast's genetic composition prevents the bud from falling off. As newer buds appear, the yeast clusters in the shape of a snowflake. And as the cluster grows, in about 12 hours it becomes a large blob visible to the naked eye.

Snowflake yeast has been used to study how lifeforms first became multicellular. Multicellular organisms can grow much larger than those with only one cell – as long as they can deal with the other effects of largeness.

For example, how does the organism ensure all cells in its body receive the nutrients they need to grow?

This is why most animals and plants evolved specific structures to transport nutrients. Blood and blood vessels do this job in humans.

A scanning electron micrograph of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. MOGANA DAS MURTEY AND PATCHAMUTHU RAMASAMY (CC BY)

A simple process

Snowflake yeast has no such facility, however, which means at some point the yeast should stop growing. Any further increase in size would cause at least some of its cells to not get enough nutrients. However, defying expectations, the snowflake yeast in Thutupalli's lab continued to grow – that too at an exponential rate. How the yeast attained this feat was a mystery.

Narayanasamy and Thutupalli, along with a team from Georgia Tech, reported in the June 2025 issue of *Science Advances* a mechanism by which the yeast can ensure all its cells receive nutrients, even when the cluster is big.

In the absence of a biological structure, the yeast continue to grow thanks to a simple physical process, the authors wrote in their paper.

The implications of the work go beyond how yeast grows.

The work "offers support to an unconventional view of how major changes are initiated in evolution," Vidyanand Nanjundiah, an evolutionary biologist and a professor at the Centre for Human Genetics, Bengaluru, said. He wasn't associated with the study.

The consensus among scientists is that multicellular organisms evolved billions of years ago when mutations accumulated over time.

But Narayanasamy's and Thutupalli's work suggests physical and chemical phenomena alone could have helped unicellular organisms evolve into multicellular ones before genetic changes came into the picture.

Flowing into multicellularity

In a lab, yeast can be grown in either a solution or a jelly-like substance that contains all its nutrients. Narayanasamy and Thutupalli observed that large clusters of snowflake yeast continue to grow exponentially only when kept in the solution. It seemed being surrounded by a fluid was crucial.

Diffusion is one way in which nutrients move through a fluid: the particles moving from a place in which their concentration is higher to one where it's lower. But Narayanasamy and Thutupalli knew from previous work that diffusion alone couldn't account for the size of large snowflake yeast clusters. Per their estimate, diffusion can explain the growth of these clusters only up to a size of about 50 micrometers (μm) whereas their clusters could grow up to 20x larger.

So they hypothesised that a different process is at play: advection, when the fluid itself moves around, carrying with it the dissolved nutrients. To test their hypothesis, they added to the solution small particles coated with a dye that glows in blue light. Using a microscope to trace how these particles moved in the solution could help them visualise the flow of the fluid. They added a snowflake yeast cluster to this solution and let it grow. The duo observed that as the cluster expanded, the solution around it moved inside the cluster from its sides, then escaped from the top.

A natural motor

Some unicellular organisms can make fluids flow using specialised hair- or whip-like structures called cilia or flagella. Snowflake yeast have neither. This is where physics becomes important.

Multicellular organisms grow larger than those with only one cell – as long as they can deal with the effects of largeness, namely the need to ensure all cells receive nutrients needed to grow. Animals and plants have structures to transport nutrients. Blood and blood vessels do the job in humans

When snowflake yeast clusters grow, they consume glucose from the solution. This reduces the density of the solution in places where it surrounds the yeast. The cluster also produces alcohol and carbon dioxide, both of which are less dense than the solution, according to the paper.

Fluids that are less dense – in this case the surrounding solution depleted of glucose and enriched with alcohol and carbon dioxide – rise above the rest of the solution. The team reasoned the flow it observed resulted from the same principle: as the cluster consumed the sugar and produced alcohol and carbon dioxide in the solution, the solution's density dropped. This fraction spontaneously moved upward, generating the flow that kept the yeast cluster alive and growing.

To confirm this, the duo checked whether flows were present around clusters that are dead and not actively consuming sugar. They didn't find any, and concluded the living clusters metabolising sugar from the solution created the flows.

A different view of evolution

Biologists have used snowflake yeast clusters as a model to study how multicellular organisms evolved from unicellular ones. Contrary to the view with genetic changes, the new study supports the idea that "multicellularity could originate and be maintained initially solely on the basis of physics and chemistry, with no genetic change," Nanjundiah said. "A later genetic change could then have made multicellularity inevitable in the ... living beings of today," he added.

The next step for him is to check if such a change subsequently occurs in the yeast, rendering multicellularity a part of its biological blueprint.

Gautam Menon, a professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University in Sonepat, called the study "fascinating" and the alternative model "temptingly attractive."

As researchers wait for more evidence of this model, the NCBS team is investigating whether these flows can account for other major evolutionary changes: the ability of organisms to move, for example.

Experiments on snowflake yeast have something more to teach about the nature of biology, Thutupalli said. "There may not exist any organism in the wild that generates flows by such a mechanism," he said, "but biology, in its much larger sense, can do it."

This is why, he added, our view of biology must extend beyond what we see in the natural world to novel phenomena that may occur only in the laboratory. "These may or may not happen outside [the lab] but they are genuinely a feature of livingness – of biology."

(Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University.dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

The researchers built a real mattress with flexible plastic panels joined by thin metal strips. Representative image. HUSH NAIDOO JADE/UNSPLASH

Alternating pressure mattresses aim to reduce bedsores

The Hindu Bureau

Pressure ulcers, also known as bedsores, happen when the same spots on a person's skin are squashed for too long, cutting off blood flow and killing tissue.

Today's alternating-pressure (AP) mattresses try to stop this by gently inflating and deflating air-filled sections so no one patch of skin stays under pressure.

But many of these beds simply aim to reduce the peak pressure and the results have been mixed.

In a new study, researchers from the University of California, Los Angeles asked a surprising question: what if the best way to stop ulcers is to raise the peak pressure for short periods and drop it, rather than keep it low all the time?

The team built a full-sized research bed containing 1,260 small electric rams. Each ram could rise or drop by up to 10 cm, allowing the surface to form a chess board of hills and valleys that could flip back and forth.

Then, using an anatomically correct 100-kg dummy, a thin foam pad, and an electronic pressure-mapping mat, they recorded the pressures under the back, hips, and heels for many patterns of hills

Researchers sought to know if the best way to stop ulcers is to raise the peak pressure for short periods and drop it. The team built a bed containing 1,260 electric rams. Each ram could rise or drop by up to 10 cm, allowing the surface to form a chess board of hills and valleys that could flip back and forth

and valleys.

During this, they tracked the hill-to-hill spacing and the depth.

For each pattern, they calculated the total area of skin that stayed above the blood cut-off pressure, about 32 mm (Hg). They also checked how sensitive this area was to people who have slightly higher or lower personal cut-off pressures, from 20 to 40 mm (Hg).

The data revealed that patterns with higher peak pressures actually reduced the area above the cut-off and that larger pressure differences between the parts with and without pressure helped too.

In fact, the team found the sweet spot to be a pattern with a 12-13 cm gap between hills and a 2.5 cm distance between valley bottoms and hill tops.

Finally, the researchers built a real mattress with flexible plastic panels joined by thin metal strips.

When someone lay on it, the panels snapped into a stable pattern.

With the dummy lying flat, the new mattress reduced the area under the cut-off by 34x relative to a regular 160 sq. cm hospital foam pad.

The area also changed very little when the cut-off was shifted from 20 to 40 mm (Hg), meaning it could work for many body types.

The findings were published in *Science Robotics* on June 18.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Fossil fuels have a legacy, too

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Fossil fuels are sometimes also called "dinosaur juice," but this is a misnomer. The vast majority of crude oil, formed when the bodies of dead lifeforms undergo anaerobic decomposition, comes from _____. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Name the geological period of the Palaeozoic era from 359 million to 299 million years ago, when many of the coal beds found worldwide today first formed. Its name means "carbon-bearing" in Latin.

QUESTION 3

During World War I, oil from _____ was widely used to ward off a condition called trench foot. The oil is also credited with being a good lubricant that kept the world's first industries running smoothly, catalysing the Industrial Revolution. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

_____ _____ is a compound consisting of methane trapped within water ice crystals. Scientists study the earth's historical climate record by examining ice cores for oxygen, carbon dioxide, and this compound. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

The last coal mine on the X archipelago, part of the kingdom of Norway, is scheduled to be closed in 2025. While coal mining dominated the local economy from the early 20th century, the region has pivoted away in favour of cleaning up the islands. Name X.

Answers to June 19 quiz:

1. Polylithic structures with a horizontal stone atop two vertical ones – **Ans: Dolmen**
2. Single standing stones of the Neolithic age – **Ans: Menhirs**
3. Remote-sensing tech to measure height of a built platform – **Ans: Lidar altimeter**
4. Practice where only half of a feature is excavated – **Ans: Sectioning**
5. Region associated with Northern Black Polished Ware – **Ans: Indian subcontinent**

Visual: **Dholavira**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Amar Pratap | Anmol Agrawal | Tamal Biswas | Joe V.R.

Visual: Name the location of the fires in this satellite image of a West Asian country in 1991. Smoke from the fires precipitated an infamous environmental disaster. CREDIT: PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Bike-rental services see renewed interest after bike-taxi ban in city

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Yulu, a Bengaluru-based company offering electric vehicle rentals, is already observing increased traction.

Following the recent ban on bike-taxi services in Bengaluru, many city commuters have turned their attention towards bike-rental services, hoping they will help address the persistent issue of last and first-mile connectivity.

The bike-taxi services, which once provided a cheap and convenient mode of travel to and from metro and bus stations, had gained popularity for precisely these reasons. With their exit, however, the demand for alternatives has sharply risen, pushing commuters to explore self-driven rental bikes as a solution.

"Bike taxis were affordable and easy to book. Now, I walk at least 1.5 km to the metro station every day. If I can rent a bike for an hour or two, it will solve my problem," said Murali S., a regular commuter from Rajajinagar.

For another commuter, Sahana M., who travels between her home in Jayanagar and workplace in Whitefield, the absence of last-mile options has added stress. "I used to rely on bike taxis after getting off the metro. Now, I sometimes wait 20 minutes for an auto. If rentals become affordable and easily accessible, I will definitely use them. Earlier when I was in college I used to regularly use the bike rentals, even EV bikes were available," she said.

The bike rental sector, which had seen a major decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, is now witnessing a cautious revival. Rental companies say the market is slowly warming up, especially among users seeking short-term mobility solutions.

Yulu, a Bengaluru-based company offering electric vehicle (EV) rentals, is already observing increased traction. The firm caters to two segments-individual mobility for leisure and commute, and goods mobility for delivery services. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a Yulu spokesperson said, "On the individual mobility side, there is strong demand for our services, and Yulu's constant endeavour is to put more vehicles on the road to match that demand."

Bounce Infinity, another prominent player in the space, also confirms a growing interest, albeit with a different focus for now. In an email interaction with *The Hindu*, Vivekananda Hallekere, CEO and Co-founder of Bounce Infinity, said, "There is a strong need for mobility solutions that are both affordable and safe. Even when bike taxis were operational, they weren't sufficient. Currently, our rentals primarily cater to business to business use cases and customers opting for long-term rentals, such as weekly or monthly plans. For typical bike taxi use cases, our solutions would have been ride-sharing, which we are not currently operating."

While Bounce Infinity is presently targeting gig workers involved in delivery and quick commerce, the company isn't ruling out consumer-facing mobility in the near future. "For first and last-mile connectivity, we will think and reintroduce suitable solutions at the right time. In the past, around 40% of our rentals began or ended at metro stations," Mr. Hallekere said.

He also emphasised the need for a broader ecosystem of mobility solutions in Indian cities. "Mobility is a complex challenge and no single solution can solve it all. For cities to thrive, we need a mix of shared mobility, walkable infrastructure, and strong public transports," he said.

IISc signs MoU with Tufts University

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tufts University to foster academic and research collaborations, specifically in the area of nutrition science and medicine.

To be housed at IISc, the proposed centre would be known as the Interdisciplinary Centre for Nutrition Science and Medicine (ICNSM).

IISc said among that centre's earliest priorities will be to initiate research across categories (basic, applied, clinical, and translational) occurring at both the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University and IISc.

"This will, in turn, create opportunities for collaboration, visiting scholars at both institutions, and innovative research opportunities," it said. Possible areas of research focus include ageing; nutritional immunity; cancer; cardiovascular, metabolic and kidney disease; nutrition and infectious diseases; precision nutrition; gut microbiome and immunity; obesity; food-as-medicine; plant-based nutrition; health impacts of ultra-processed food; nutrition and technology (including the use of sensors and AI); and preventive nutrition.

In addition, Tufts and IISc see opportunities to collaborate through the centre on large-scale nutritional intervention studies focused on, for example, chronic disease, anaemia, hypertension, malnutrition, and metabolic disease.

FIR registered against blackmailer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Division Cyber Crime police are on the lookout for an unidentified man for blackmailing a Delhi-based businessman by uploading morphed pictures of his daughter on a dating website.

Based on the complaint filed on Saturday, the police have registered an FIR charging the accused under section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) under the Information Technology Act, 2000 for further investigation.

Intermittent power supply

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has announced a scheduled power outage across several areas in the city on Tuesday due to essential maintenance work at multiple substations under the Jayanagar Division.

According to a notification issued by the Executive Engineer (Electrical), BESCOM Jayanagar Division, power supply will be intermittently affected between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. across various zones.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUN. 24		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	04:24	SET 17:53
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 25		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	05:28	SET 18:58
THURSDAY, JUN. 26		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	06:33	SET 19:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Mosty dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Slower growth of retail credit in the fourth quarter of FY25

5 In per cent. The retail credit market continued to see a softening in the last quarter of 2024–25, as new loan originations (partly a measure of credit demand and supply) grew at a slower rate in March as against 12% a year ago. The slowdown was despite the RBI slashing its lending rate by 25 basis points. PTI

First estimate of public spending for the 2024 Paris Olympics

6.8 In $ billion. France's court of auditors provided the first official estimate of public spending tied to the 2024 Paris Olympics, with global public expenditure estimated at nearly six billion euros. The report said that the spending includes €2.77 billion for event organisation. PTI

The decline in Ukraine's 2025 wheat harvest

3 In per cent. Analyst ASAP Agri sees Ukraine's 2025 wheat harvest falling to 21.74 million metric tonnes and that yield could average 4.37 tonnes per hectare, 3.5% less than a year earlier, the consultancy said on Monday. Ukraine has exported 15.64 million tonnes of wheat as of June 23. REUTERS

Fall in oil production at Sakhalin-1 in the month of July

135 In thousand barrels per day. Russia's largest oil producer Rosneft will suspend output of its export-oriented Sokol crude grade at its far eastern Sakhalin-1 project in August because of maintenance. The maintenance will last between 20 and 25 days. REUTERS

Indians in the second batch of evacuees from Israel

443 The second batch of Indian nationals from Israel saw two groups of 175 and 268 people leave through Israel's border with Jordan and Egypt, taking the total number of Indians taken out of the war-torn country to 603 in two days. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Pakistan's role in the U.S.-West Asia calculus

Pakistan has a complex relationship with Iran, with the two countries competing for influence in Afghanistan. Iran is dependent on food imports which make trade routes via land important. Pakistan can play a role for the U.S. in isolating Iran in case of a conflict with Israel

WORLD INSIGHT

D.P. Srivastava

On June 22, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. had conducted military strikes against three Iranian nuclear installations. This is a momentous event, the outcome of which could change the shape of West Asia for decades to come.

Previous western interventions in Iraq (1992 and 2002), and in Libya (2011), saw quick military outcomes, but long term destabilisation of the countries.

Mr. Trump warned of 'far greater' attacks in the future if Iran does not 'make peace'. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said that "Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, interests and people". Will this then be a long drawn-out war? How will it impact the situation in the sub-continent, as the U.S. strike was preceded by Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Munir's meeting with President Trump. The general, who got himself promoted to Field Marshal only recently, arrived in Washington soon after Israel began its attack on June 13.

U.S. interests'

General Asim Munir's private lunch with Mr. Trump at the White House on June 18 was an unprecedented departure from protocol. Normally, heads of states or governments have to vie for this honour. While the meeting was projected by both sides in the sub-continent's context, this makes little sense as India-Pakistan hostilities came to an end a month ago. There was no urgency to demand the U.S. President's attention.

Earlier in June, Pakistan was praised in a Senate hearing by General Michael Kurilla, the head of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). He praised Pakistan's 'value as a partner' in countering terrorism and mentioned its role in the arrest and extradition of Mohd. Sharifullah, accused of killing 13 U.S. soldiers, who were deployed during the U.S. evacuation from Afghanistan, at Kabul airport on August 26, 2021.

This was a curious statement considering that Pakistan undermined the two decade-long U.S. effort to stabilise Afghanistan despite receiving $20 billion as U.S. assistance during the period. Imran Khan, the then Pakistan prime minister gloated over the U.S.'s humiliating withdrawal and said that 'shackles of slavery' had been broken. It is unlikely that the CENTCOM chief had forgotten such recent history, and therefore one needs to understand what exactly led to the sudden change in the U.S.'s position.

For the U.S., West Asia is far more important than South Asia. Though America is no longer dependent on oil imports from the Gulf, it has large economic stakes there. During his recent visit to the region, Mr. Trump extracted more than $3 trillion worth of commitments in investment in the U.S. from Gulf monarchies. The security of Israel is also deeply enmeshed in American politics. The focus of the CENTCOM chief's testimony was not South Asia, but the situation in the West Asian region and how to deter Iran with Pakistan support.

Pakistan-Iran relations

Pakistan has a complex relationship with Iran. The two countries compete for influence in Afghanistan. Pakistan takes pride in being the only Muslim majority state possessing nuclear weapons, and it does not like the idea of losing that status. There have also been attacks on Iranian security personnel by groups based in Pakistan. This had triggered missile exchanges between the two countries in 2024.

Pakistan can play a role in isolating Iran in case of a conflict with Israel. Iran depends on imports for most of its food requirements, and therefore trade routes via land are important in case conflict in the region leads to a closing of ports along the Persian Gulf. There are five trading posts on the Iran-Pakistan border through which there is smuggling of petrol and diesel from Iran to the Pakistani side of the border. Iran also supplies electricity for the Gwadar port situated in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

On June 15, Pakistan announced – around the time General Munir arrived in Washington – the closure of its land borders with Iran, except for the return of Pakistani nationals. In 1965, Iran under the Shah regime had provided sanctuary to the Pakistan Air Force. And now, Pakistan has slammed the door shut in Iran's face.

The understanding between Pakistan and the Trump administration was probably in the works for some time. It may be recalled that Pakistan received a fresh commitment of $1.4 billion under the climate resilience program of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the midst of recent hostilities with India. This was in addition to the release of $1 billion under the existing commitment of $7 billion from the IMF as the nation faces a desperate economic situation. President Trump's intervention also helped Pakistan when Indian armed forces neutralised Pakistan's air defences, and struck a critical facility near Nur Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi.

Increased defence outlay

In Pakistan's budget for FY2025-26 presented on June 10, defence was provided an increased outlay despite overall downsizing of the expenditure by 7%. The stated figure for defence expenditure was 2.55 trillion Pakistani rupees. This, however, does not include an allocation of 742 billion Pakistani rupees on account of military pensions. Therefore, the overall defence outlay is 3.29 trillion Pakistani rupees ($11.65 billion). This represents a sharp hike of more than 17% over the previous year's budget. The development sector, already neglected, has seen a 50% reduction to 1 trillion Pakistani rupees in the recent budget.

Pakistan is a heavily indebted country. The interest payment of 8.207 trillion Pakistani rupees is the largest item of expenditure in the budget, accounting for 74.14% of the federal government's revenue share of 11.07 trillion Pakistani rupees. The total expenditure on account of defence and debt service exceeds Islamabad's share of revenue. Federal government departments, other than defence, have to be run on the basis of fresh loans. While Shahbaz Sharif's government has projected an improved foreign exchange position with reserves amounting to $11.5 billion, this was made possible only by the rollover of $16 billion of loans by friendly countries.

Ideology

On April 16, General Munir in a speech told his Pakistani audience that they belong to a "superior ideology". He also mentioned the two-nation theory, and said that Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan. However, Mr. Munir was simply repeating what has become Pakistan's official creed.

It was Muhammad Ali Jinnah who had originally propounded both these ideas. The ideology of Pakistan since then has been to impose a uniform religious identity ignoring national and linguistic diversities of its people. This lies at the heart of the conflict in Balochistan, which never wanted to join Pakistan. The Khan of Kalat had declared independence in 1947, supported by the Loya Jirga. While Jinnah initially recognised Balochistan's independence, he later sent in troops to suppress the new founded state.

The thrust of General Munir's April speech was on suppressing the Baloch national struggle. Balochistan is strategically important as it borders the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran where the Chabahar port is located. Gwadar is essentially a military facility for the Chinese navy, and not a transport hub. It accounts for only 1% of Pakistan's maritime trade.

Has Pakistan discovered new fault lines to exploit? The timing of the U.S.'s entry into the Iran-Israel war could not have been better from Pakistan's point of view. It's sinking economy needs continued assistance despite the 25 IMF bailout packages it has received so far.

With the increasing imprint of religion in Pakistan's polity, the sectarian divide has coloured its relations with Iran. Internally, there has been a rise in attacks by Sunni extremist groups on Shia pilgrims going by the land route to Shia holy cities in Iran and Iraq. This is not a coincidence – these groups enjoy the Pakistan army's support which has used them to counter Baloch nationalism. While a tacit understanding with the U.S. on Iran could hold the fort, it will have a domestic cost. It will not go down well with the jihadist constituency the Pakistan army has cultivated. For in the same speech in which he ranted against India, General Munir also pledged support to the struggle of the people of Gaza against Zionist Israel.

Pakistan has thus lived and is continuing to live with such contradictions.

D. P. Srivastava is former Ambassador to Iran and author of Pakistan: Ideologies, Strategies and Interests.

Contradictory stance: Supporters of the 'Jamaat-e-Islami' hold a demonstration to condemn Israeli strikes on Iran, in Karachi, Pakistan, on June 23. AP

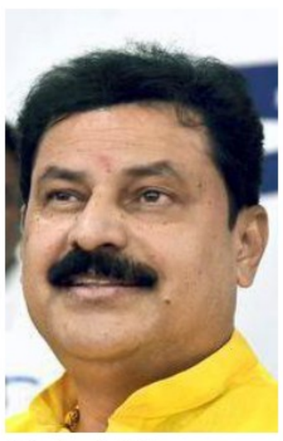
THE GIST

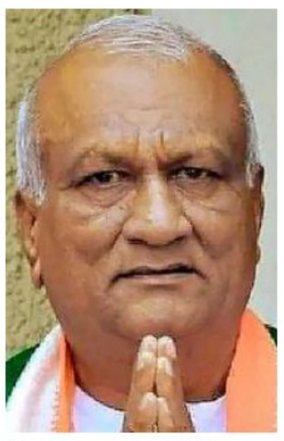
- General Asim Munir's private lunch with Mr. Trump at the White House on June 18 was an unprecedented departure from protocol.
- In Pakistan's budget for FY2025-26 presented on June 10, defence was provided an increased outlay despite overall downsizing of the expenditure by 7%.
- The timing of the U.S.'s entry into the Iran-Israel war could not have been better from Pakistan's point of view. It's sinking economy needs continued assistance despite the 25 IMF bailout packages it has received so far.

MLAs facing the heat owing to lack of funds, Cong. leaders feel

While Kagwad MLA Raju Kage threatens to quit his membership of the Assembly over the slow pace of works, Sagar MLA Belur Gopalakrishna seeks resignation of Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/BELAGAVI /SHIVAMOGGA


Belur Gopalakrishna


Bharamagounda (Raju) Kage

The issue of Congress legislators going public and embarrassing the Siddaramaiah-led government over "slow-paced development" and alleged corruption in the Housing Department, is not being viewed as isolated cases within the party.

After Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission Chairman and Aland legislator B.R. Patil alleged corruption in the distribution of houses and violation of protocol, it was the turn of Bharamagounda (Raju) Kage, Congress legislator from Kagwad, on Monday. He not only extended his support to Mr. Patil, but also threatened to resign. "Mr. Patil is right in saying about corruption and slow progress of work in some departments. Even I am upset at the slow pace of development," Mr. Kage, chairperson of North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), told reporters in Belagavi.

Providing an example, he said: "The State government approved construction of 75 community halls at a cost of ₹13 crore in Kagwad. Even after two years, it has not issued work order. How long can we tolerate? People are scolding us over the slow pace of work. It is difficult to face the people in my constituency. It will not be surprising if I resign in a few days."

Multiple sources in the Congress and the government acknowledged that some of the legislators were facing the heat in constituencies over the lack of funds, especially to undertake road repair works or other small works.

"It is difficult to face the people when you don't have funds to undertake small pothole filling work. The problem is not widespread among the legislators but restricted to some constituencies," a senior Minister said. "Shortage of funds is not the case across the State. When funds are not available for small works, legislators face the heat. This will be controlled by the Chief Minister, who may allocate funds required in such constituencies."

Another Minister said: "Legislators know that a good portion of money is going towards pre-poll assurances (guarantees). In fact, they owe their victory to these assurances. No doubt there is pressure on development, but such public outbursts are not good."

Resignation sought

Meanwhile, urging Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan to resign after allegations of corruption against him surfaced, party legislator from Sagar Belur Gopalkrishna said: "The issue is serious since a senior legislator has made the allegation. In the past whenever allegations were made, the Ministers would resign. Similarly, the Minister concerned should resign and face an inquiry. If proved innocent, he could be re-inducted in the Cabinet."

KPCC sources said that the party and the Housing Minister had been embarrassed by Mr. Patil on the housing issue, and it does not augur well for the party because the houses were meant for the poor.

While a section of leaders are viewing their public posture as a result of a lack of funds for development works, a few others are assessing the public outburst that could be tied to a possible Cabinet reshuffle in the future. "Legislators might be speaking strategically to suit their needs too," another Minister felt.

CM to meet B.R. Patil tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Battling dissatisfaction among the legislators over grants and allegations of corruption in allotment of houses, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that he would meet Aland legislator B.R. Patil on Wednesday to gather information on housing issues, while he said he would also also speak to Kagwad MLA Raju Kage to understand the problem in the constituency. "I will hold discussions with Mr. Kage besides prioritising the constituencies for special grants," he told reporters in Raichur.

On legislator from Sagar Belur Gopalkrishna's demand for the Housing Minister's resignation, the Chief Minister said: "I will gather further details."

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had earlier said in Bengaluru that the Chief Minister and Mr. Ahmed Khan will respond on the issue.

Several dissatisfied Cong. MLAs are keen to join BJP: Shettar

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

As the episode of alleged corruption in housing allotments took a serious turn with a ruling Congress MLA threatening to quit, the BJP mounted an attack on the Congress government, while its MP and former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar predicted the collapse of the government claiming that a slew of Congress MLAs were keen to join the BJP.

"This government will not stay for long. It will fall, as Congress MLAs are upset with their party's government. A lot of Congress MLAs, including Kagwad MLA Raju Kage, want to join the BJP," Mr. Shettar told reporters in Belagavi on Monday, while responding to Mr. Kage's statement that he was so upset with the slow pace of development work in his constituency that he might resign.

No 'Operation Lotus'

Mr. Shettar clarified that the BJP was not planning any 'Operation Lotus' to engineer defections from the Congress, but the Congress MLAs were volunteering to change their political loyalty.

Meanwhile, BJP veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa told presspersons in Bengaluru that it was not just Mr. Kage who was upset with the government and who wanted to quit.

Many upset MLAs

"There are several other Congress MLAs who are upset with their government. Each of them are going to voice their dissatisfaction. You just wait and see," he said.

Referring to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asking senior Congress MLA B. R. Patil to meet him to seek clarification on his allegations of corruption in allotments under housing schemes, Mr. Yediyurappa said the BJP was concerned that the Chief Minister may try to silence Mr. Patil.

He accused the Congress government of trying to prevent senior leaders and prominent personalities from speaking out against it by issuing threats.

Mr. Yediyurappa said he would not only hold meetings of BJP workers, but would also tour the State to create public awareness about the government's alleged misdeeds.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok launched a scathing attack on Mr. Siddaramaiah by asking him to protect the dignity of the State by tendering resignation to his post.

'Does CM have courage to seek Minister's resignation?'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expressing outrage over alleged corruption in the Housing Department in Karnataka, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy ridiculed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by remarking whether he had the courage and the integrity to seek the resignation of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi on Monday, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "There are multiple layers of scams within the department. Will the Chief Minister demand the Housing Minister's resignation? Does this CM have the courage, integrity, or moral authority to do so?"

He said the condition of MLAs in the State was like that of the famous character Tabara, while recalling the famous Kannada short story *Tabarana Kathe* by K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi which was made into a film by Girish Kasaravalli, in which a watchman runs from pillar to post to claim his pension.

"Unfortunately, today's MLAs are in the same situation, running to Ministers and engineers' offices. Never before has the State seen such a sorry state of governance," he said.

Streamline process of land acquisition and award of compensation, HC tells CS

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Chief Secretary to streamline, using information technology, the process of acquisition, award of compensation, redetermination of compensation, etc. in all land acquisition cases.

Lay down norms

The Chief Secretary should also lay down some guidelines of standard operating procedure with the assistance of e-government department to bring about transparency and efficiency in the system relating to grant of compensation on account of acquisition of land and while doing so, protect the interest of the land-losers, who are rendered voiceless in the proceeding, the court said.

The court also said that the information technology tool to be used for streamlining the process should be capable of capturing the details of the acquisition notification, inquiry, report of the Special Land Acquisition Officers (SLAOs), final notification, court proceedings, reference of award to the courts, and all related proceedings and documents from the time of issuance of a preliminary notification till the final notification, including notices, file notings, etc.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the directions while pointing out the delay in the process of redetermination of compensation based on the civil court's order with respect to certain land that was acquired in 1991 for the Upper Tunga Project in Haveri district and for Konkan Railway project in Karwar of Uttara Kannada district. The SLAO had passed order on redetermination only in 2022, the court noted.

Daily follow-up

The technology should have tools for day-to-day follow-up of the proceedings before the reference court, and day-to-day actions, and the responsibility of the each of the persons for the proceeding before the reference court, and other proceedings in the acquisition process, the court said.

Meanwhile, the court directed the Chief Secretary to institute an enquiry on the delay in redetermination process in this case and submit a report within six weeks.

Study finds public health spending has not resulted in significant pro-poor services

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A file photo of a healthcare centre in Bengaluru.

An analysis of equity between urban and rural health services using Benefit Incidence Analysis (BIA), a tool to estimate the equity of healthcare benefits accrued to individuals across socio-economic groups, has found that public spending has not resulted in significantly pro-poor services in India.

The paper titled 'Benefit Incidence of Public Health Expenditure in India: Urban-Rural Equity Matters for Universal Health Coverage' has been published in the *Journal of Health Management*, a Sage Journals publication.

A team of researchers led by faculty from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, used data from the 75th National Sample Survey (NSS) round done in 2017-2018 for the analysis. Disease burden, out-of-pocket expenses, and non-utilisation of public health services for outpatient and inpatient care were analysed. Concentration curves and indices were calculated for rural and urban areas.

"This article represents the most recent BIA completed in India and presents an analysis of the distribution of public spending in outpatient and inpatient care. The results illustrate the extent of the effectiveness of resource allocation on public health by the government in meeting the needs of vulnerable populations," said Denny John, professor - public health, faculty of life and allied health sciences at M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences.

Dr. John, who is the corresponding author of the paper, told *The Hindu* that when both outpatient and inpatient care are considered together, public health spending approaches a more equitable distribution. However, for inpatient care, public health spending is more pro-poor, whereas for outpatient care, it is more pro-rich. In rural areas, public health spending on outpatient and inpatient care is more pro-poor compared to urban areas, where it tends to be more pro-rich, he explained.

In rural areas, the utilisation of public health facilities for both outpatient and inpatient care is concentrated among non-poor individuals but is more pro-poor for outpatient care.

"To fulfil the health needs of the urban and rural populations, public health funding must be appropriately allocated. This study sought to determine whether such practices were present in India. Results at the national level show a patchy distribution of equality in public spending between urban and rural people," the doctor said.

Disparities in access

The launch of Ayushman Bharat in 2018 marked India's start toward universal health coverage (UHC). However, various studies have shown that only 1.28% of India's GDP, or roughly ₹1.58 trillion, is allocated to public health spending, one of the lowest rates in the world. Besides, there are disparities in access to healthcare between urban and rural areas, and a lack of accountability.

"This research yields a number of important conclusions. Overall, at the national level, the non-poor are the main users of public health facilities for both inpatient and outpatient care. Our examination of public spending reveals that we are getting close to achieving equality. Spending on public health is getting closer to parity when outpatient and inpatient treatment are taken into account jointly. However, public health spending is more pro-poor for inpatient care, but more pro-rich for outpatient care. Outpatient and inpatient public health spending in rural areas benefits the poor, whereas in urban areas, it tends to benefit the wealthy," Dr. John said.

In order to better target the underprivileged in rural and urban areas and achieve UHC in India, policymakers should use these statistics to increase the amount of detail in their work and monitor levels and equity patterns in government health spending, he added.

India should try to stop conflict between Iran and America: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge inaugurating various works at Yaragera village in Raichur on Monday.

Expressing serious concern over the escalating tension between Iran and the United States of America, AICC president and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday appealed for peace and said people wanted Buddha (peace), not yuddha (war).

He was speaking at the inauguration of the decennial ceremony of the implementation of Article 371(J) and other development works at Yaragera village in Raichur district.

Criticising the Indian government's stand, Mr. Kharge said that Iran exported 50% of petroleum products to India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should try to stop the tension.

"The Congress wants all to be united when the world is facing a war-like situation. Our leader Sonia Gandhi has appealed for peace and I am emphasising the same," Mr. Kharge said.

Recalling the incident of the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, the AICC president said that the Indian Army had done a good job against terrorism, and the Congress also supported the Indian government.

However, the Prime Minister who had called an all-party meeting, remained absent and participated in an election rally in Bihar instead.

"When the Opposition parties were attending meetings, he was criticising us in the rally. What does it mean? This is not correct. People have watched everything and will never forget it," he said.

Giving full marks to the State government for properly implementing guarantee schemes as promised, he said that the government was functioning on the basis of social justice.

"No BJP ruled States are following this. However, the Opposition parties are trying to bring a bad name to the government in this regard. But you must foil such attempts together," he told the gathering.

He explained briefly about the circumstances when the then-government, led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, took a decision to implement Article 371(J) for Kalyana Karnataka.

"After this, many have got medical and engineering seats. The people of all communities, irrespective of their caste, are now getting benefits out of it. You must remember who had helped you and appreciate their efforts" he said.

He thanked the people for backing the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections.

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road), Bengaluru-25
Phone: 080-25584102/25594893 Website: www.ksphc.org
e-Mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/05/2025-26/81 Date: 23.06.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites **ONLINE** tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the below works.

Name of Works: Construction of 3-Bay Fire Stations 1) at Sirawara in Raichur Dist./WI-234 2) at Wadagera in Yadagir Dist./WI-235 & 3) at Teradala in Bagalkote Dist./WI-237 under K-SAFE-2 Project.

Interested Eligible Contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender Documents etc., are available on KPPP from **24-06-2025 onwards.**

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPPP.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-Contracts

DIPR/CP/1417/SPAN/2025-26

ABSTRACT

Hot and humid: Harvesting wheat in Kremlin, Oklahoma, U.S., on June 12. REUTERS

Rising evaporative demand spotlights India's data and research gap

Evaporative demand is a measure of how thirsty the atmosphere is. Evaporative demand determines the near-maximum of how much water will evaporate from a given piece of land if sufficient water is available

G.B.S.N.P. Varma

M. S. Kukal, M. Hobbins,"Thirstwaves: prolonged periods of agricultural exposure to extreme atmospheric evaporative demand for water", *Earth's Future*, March 20, 2025. doi.org/10.1029/2024EF004870

The air itself has become more thirsty due to global warming. Quenching this thirst has meant more water is coming off the land, including from plants and trees, leaving them drier.

Evaporative demand is a measure of how thirsty the atmosphere is. Meetpal Kukal of the University of Idaho and Mike Hobbins of the University of Colorado and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration coined the term "thirstwave" to denote three or more contiguous days of intense evaporative demand – which they recently found to be increasing over the U.S.

Their research was published in *Earth's Future*, where they wrote: "Not only have thirstwaves increased in severity, but the likelihood of no thirstwaves occurring during the growing season has significantly decreased."

More water leaving

While heat waves are caused by particular temperature and wind patterns, a thirstwave is the product of temperature, humidity, solar radiation, and wind speed.

When temperatures rise, the consequences include more heat as well as the mechanics of water exchange between land and atmosphere, which in turn alters humidity, wind, and solar radiation.

"If you are a farmer growing rice or wheat, and your crop is irrigated sufficiently, its water use on any given day will be dictated by what the atmospheric evaporative demand is on that day," said Mr. Kukal, assistant professor of hydrologic science and water management at the University of Idaho. Evaporative demand determines the near-maximum of how much water will evaporate from a given piece of land if sufficient water is available.

In a warming world, the researchers found that thirstwaves have grown more intense, are more frequent, and are lasting longer, especially in seasons when crops are grown. While previous studies examined the mean or total evaporative demand, the new one focused on extremes.

A simplified measure

Mr. Kukal said evaporative demand is measured using standardised short-crop evapotranspiration – defined as the amount of water a grass surface 12 cm high and which has continuous access to sufficient water and is free of any stress will use (evapotranspiration itself refers to the two processes by which water moves from land to the atmosphere: evaporation from surfaces and transpiration from plant leaves.)

Mr. Kukal called standardised short-crop evapotranspiration "a core concept that is recommended to be used in deciding how much and when to irrigate a crop", adding that it is "a simplification of [an] otherwise very complicated process, where we are assuming the vegetation properties to be constant, so water use is only a function of weather."

An increasing standardised short-crop evapotranspiration means the ambient temperature is increasing, the humidity dropping, wind speeds picking up, and the amount of solar radiation picking up as well.

Effect of humidity

In a paper published in *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* in 1997, Nabansu Chattopadhyay and M. Hulme had suggested that both evaporation and potential evapotranspiration – the maximum amount of water that can be evaporated from any surface – decreased in India during the 30 years before the publication of their paper. However, they added, future warming was likely to lead to more potential evapotranspiration over the country, with regional and seasonal disparities.

Chattopadhyay, who worked in the agricultural meteorology division of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune, before his retirement, said that he and his co0author had analysed 30 years' worth of data from the IMD's network of evaporation stations and estimated potential evapotranspiration. But while warming over India should have increased evaporation, he added, their analysis found the opposite.

When they rechecked the data, he said humidity had nullified the effect of rise in temperature. Using global circulation models, they also found that future temperature increases would supersede the effect of humidity and increasing evaporative demand.

'Great direction'

In 2022, researchers from IIT-Roorkee, the National Institute of Hydrology (Roorkee) and institutes in France and The Netherlands, reported recent changes in evaporative demand across 100 river sub-basins in India. Their paper, published in the *Journal of Cleaner Production*, stated that "the largest increase in actual evapotranspiration is found in Northern India, Western Himalayas, and several areas in Eastern Himalayas, which could be a sign of either increased vegetation or agricultural expansion."

This said, according to experts, there is essentially no data about extreme thirstwaves over India.

"The sensitivity of different crops, ecosystems, and regions to evaporative demand will likely be different, but this has not been investigated much yet. This is a great direction for future research," Mr. Kukal said.

A familiar pattern

While Mr. Kukal's and Mr. Hobbins's study was the first to characterise thirstwaves in the U.S., Mr. Kukal said there is considerable scope to investigate this phenomenon in the Global South, where societies are generally more vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

As a step in this direction, Mr. Kukal is currently hosting Shailza Sharma, a PhD scholar from the National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, to investigate thirstwave behaviour over South Asia with financial help from the Water Advanced Research and Innovation Program. They hope to publish their findings about thirstwaves in climate-vulnerable countries – with important implications for global food and water security – soon.

One particularly intriguing aspect of their research is that they found that "the worst thirstwaves happened in places that do not experience the highest [evaporative] demand." This means there may be a need to reevaluate how governments prioritise different regions of their countries for climate change preparedness and climate mitigation, using the lens of thirstwaves.

As the world warms further, tracking, measuring and reporting and sensitising farmers and water managers is of paramount importance, experts added.

G.B.S.N.P. Varma is a freelance science journalist.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

U.S. has entered the conflict between Iran and Israel by hitting three nuclear sites in Iran. A quiz on some of the military interventions by the U.S. in other countries

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1

"The world would be an unbalanced place if it allowed the United States of America to rule alone over our canal..." Name the Nicaraguan leader who wrote this in his manifesto extolling continued resistance against U.S. intervention in his country.

QUESTION 2

Which country did the U.S. invade under 'Operation Just Cause'?

QUESTION 3

The Gulf of Tonkin resolution laid the groundwork for U.S. intervention in this Asian country. Name the country.

QUESTION 4

"Richard Nixon and _____ allowed the Khmer Rouge to grasp golden opportunities", a Khmer Rouge official had told a tribunal set up to prosecute those deemed responsible for the regime's atrocities in Cambodia. Name the former U.S. NSA who was mentioned along with the former President.

QUESTION 5

Name the U.S. Navy vessel that sank in Havana harbour in Cuba leading to the escalation of the U.S.-Spain conflict and the eventual U.S. intervention in Cuba.

Visual question:
This fictional movie character, in the third installment of the movie franchise, fought Soviet forces alongside armed rebels in this country. While the regime of the country was overthrown by U.S. forces, it returned to power after the U.S. withdrew its troops in 2021. Name the character and the country. AP

Questions and Answers to the yesterday's daily quiz: 1. The reason June 23 is celebrated as Olympic Day. **Ans: To commemorate the founding of the modern Olympic Games in 1894**
2. The first Olympic Day was celebrated on this day. **Ans: June 23, 1948**
3. The meaning of 'Move, learn, discover – Together for a better world' in the context of the Olympic Day. **Ans: They are the three pillars based on which the Olympic Day annually promotes a healthy and active lifestyle**
4. This has been added to the "Let's Move" theme. **Ans: '+1'**
5. The Olympic Day Run was organised for the first time this year. **Ans: 1987**
6. Thomas Bach was IOC president for these many years. **Ans: 12 years**
Visual: Kirsty Coventry won seven Olympic medals in this sport. **Ans: Swimming**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli| Erfanally Oosmany| Suchit Narottam| Arjun Debnath| Akshay Kumar Khanna

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Rajesh's school bus stops right in front of his house now."

"That's good. At least his mother doesn't have to walk him all the way."

"But she does have to help him cross the street."

"What for?"

"What do you mean, what for? To help him catch the bus, of course."

"But you said, the bus stop was in front of the house..."

"... Yes, but he has to cross the street because...."

.... Well, if he has to cross the street, then the bus stop is not in front of the house. It's opposite the house."

"What! Don't 'opposite' and 'in front of' mean the same?"

"No, they don't. When you say, the bus stop is in front of the house, it means that the bus stop is on the same side of the street that your house is on. You don't have to cross the street."

"So what you are saying is 'in front of' is the opposite of 'behind'."

"Exactly!"

"But if I say the bus stop is opposite the house, it means..."

"... that you have to walk across the street to get to the bus stop."

"So there would be difference in meaning between, 'There's a hotel in front of the station' and 'There's a hotel opposite the station'?"

"Yes, there would."

"Interesting! Well, I saw Rajesh and his friends yesterday. They were sitting in front of the bus."

"What were they protesting about?"

"Protesting?"

"Well, if they were sitting in front of the bus, they obviously didn't want the bus to leave and..."

"... What's got into you today? I'm telling you these students were sitting in the front

seats and you..."

"... oh, they were sitting in front seats! Well, in that case, you should have said, they were sitting 'in the front of the bus."

"But that's what I said."

"No, you didn't. You said, Rajesh and his friends sat in front of the bus. There's difference between 'in front of' and 'in the front of.' When you say, Rajesh and his friends sat in front of the bus, it means they were not inside the bus."

"What?"

"They were sitting outside..."

"... and the bus was behind them! 'In front of' is the opposite of 'behind,' right?"

"That's right. So, when I sit in front of the bus, the bus is behind me. I'm not inside it."

"I see. So, if I say, the man was shot in front of the house, it means he was shot outside the house. Is that correct?"

"It certainly is. And if you want to say that he was inside the house when he was shot, then you would have to say, the man was shot in the front of the house."

"Rajesh and his friends sat in the front the bus. This would mean that they sat in the front portion of the bus?"

"Yes, it would."

Published in The Hindu on December 24, 1996.

Word of the day

Conflagration:
a very intense and uncontrolled fire

Synonym: inferno

Usage: *The conflagration destroyed the godowns.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/conflagrationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌkɒnfləˈgɹeɪʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

New excise licence fee notified in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The govt. has brought down the proposed annual fee hike by 50%

The State government on Monday notified a new licence fee for liquor vends, distilleries and breweries by bringing down the annual fee hike by 50%. It also notified a five-year licence for liquor-selling establishments, up from the one-year licence now in vogue.

Earlier, the government had announced a new licence fee regime by doubling the fee, drawing the ire of stakeholders. The revision was after nine years. However, after several petitions and protests by liquor dealers, the government has reduced the hike by 50%. "Though we asked for a total rollback on the hike in licence fee, it has been reduced by 50%. We feel that this is better than 100% hike. We find the extension of licence renewal period to five years convenient. However, we will continue to fight seeking implementation of our other demands," said B. Govindraj Hegde, general secretary of the Federation of Wine Merchants Association, Karnataka.

He said that they were expecting the government to provide instalment facility to the liquor vend owners to pay the licence fee.

INBRIEF

Ex-Kerala CM Achuthanandan hospitalised after heart attack

V.S. Achuthanandan, former Kerala Chief Minister and veteran leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), was hospitalised around 10 a.m. on Monday at SUT Hospital at Pattom in Thiruvananthapuram following a heart attack. He is 101 years old. Hospital sources said Mr. Achuthanandan has been admitted to the ICU and that his current condition was stable. Mr. Achuthanandan had been a towering and fiery presence in Kerala politics for decades.

UDF's Nilambur win a verdict against ruling LDF: Congress

Aryadan Shoukath secures 77,737 votes against runner-up LDF candidate M. Swaraj's tally of 66,660 votes; V.D. Satheesan hails victory as testament to collective strength of Opposition front

Abdul Latheef Naha
MALAPPURAM

Man of the moment: The UDF's winning candidate, Arydan Shoukath, raising the photo of his father, the late Aryadan Mohammed, during his victory rally in Nilambur on Monday. SAKEER HUSSAIN

The United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Aryadan Shoukath registered a resounding victory in the Nilambur Assembly byelection, outpacing Left Democratic Front's (LDF) M. Swaraj by a notable margin of 11,077 votes as the ballots polled on June 19 were counted on Monday.

Mr. Shoukath maintained a steady momentum, taking an early lead and consistently extending his advantage over Mr. Swaraj throughout the 19 rounds of counting. Out of the 1,75,989 votes polled, including 1,322 postal votes, Mr. Shoukath secured 77,737 votes (44.17%) and Mr. Swaraj got 66,660 votes (37.88 %).

The Anvar factor

All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) State convener P.V. Anvar's independent bid was the dark horse of the byelection, polling a significant 19,760 votes and accounting for 11.23%. Mr. Anvar's impressive tally has left both the UDF and LDF camps in a state of contemplation.

The BJP's foray into Nilambur ended in disappointment with Mohan George's campaign failing to gain traction. He secured only 8,648 votes (4.91%). Sadik Naduthodi of SDPI won 2,075 (1.18 %) votes while NOTA (none of the above) garnered 630 votes. Five independent candidates collectively received 479 votes.

Dip in vote share

Interestingly, all key players experienced a dip in their vote share from what they garnered in the 2021 Assembly election largely because of the presence of Mr. Anvar.

While the UDF's vote share fell from 45.34% to 44.17%, the LDF's plummeted from 46.9% to 37.88%, the BJP's marginally from 4.96% to 4.91% and the SDPI's from 1.89% to 1.18%.

UDF chairman and Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan hailed the victory as a testament to the collective strength of the UDF.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Sunny Joseph termed the UDF's victory a clear verdict against the LDF government, attributing it to widespread anti-government sentiment.

"The Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the government must take this as a lesson," he told media-persons. CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan alleged that the UDF's victory could be attributed to the backing of minority communal organisations. The result did not reflect an anti-incumbency wave, he said.

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) State president Syed Sadiqali Shihab Thangal said the UDF's decisive victory was a clear reflection of strong anti-government sentiment.

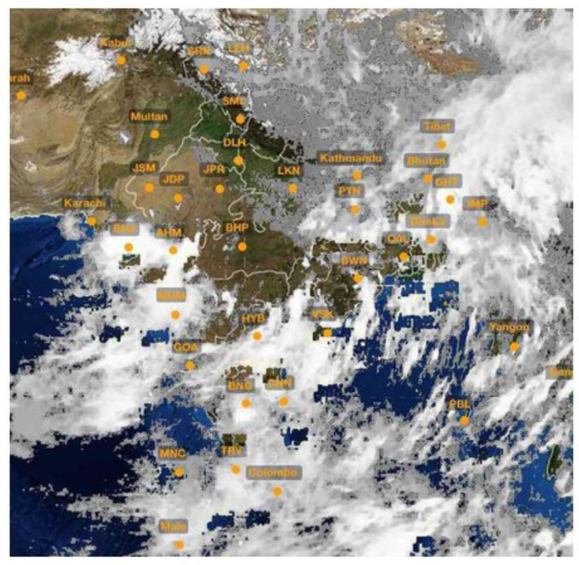
"The people have spoken against the government. The UDF raised only people's issues in Nilambur and that connected with the voters," Mr. Thangal said, adding Mr. Anvar too "benefited from the anti-government mood."

BJP's take

Bharatiya Janata Party national executive committee member P.K. Krishnadas said the UDF's victory was not a triumph for the Congress-led front, but victory for a "terrorist organisation", Jamaat-e-Islami. "It is a victory for the Jamaat-e-Islami. The UDF and the LDF witnessed a vote share drop, while the BJP-led front saw an increase," Mr. Krishnadas said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.8	27.1	Kozhikode	58	30.2	23.5
Ahmedabad	4	31.3	26.5	Kurnool	4	33.8	25.4
Aizawl	2	31.8	22.5	Lucknow	12	33.6	28.0
Allahabad	8	33.0	26.1	Madurai	—	36.5	26.6
Bengaluru	7	27.8	20.3	Mangaluru	73	28.3	23.0
Bhopal	22	29.0	24.0	Mumbai	6	30.7	28.0
Bhubaneswar	0.1	30.7	25.4	Mysuru	—	29.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	35.6	28.4	New Delhi	—	36.2	28.2
Chennai	—	33.7	25.2	Patna	—	33.1	28.2
Coimbatore	—	31.4	20.3	Port Blair	22	29.5	24.1
Dehradun	16	33.0	25.6	Puducherry	—	33.2	24.4
Gangtok	38	23.4	18.0	Pune	—	30.6	24.3
Goa	53	28.8	23.2	Raipur	—	34.1	26.3
Guwahati	1	34.5	26.5	Ranchi	103	31.2	22.1
Hubballi	—	27.0	23.0	Shillong	4	24.9	18.6
Hyderabad	—	32.4	24.0	Shimla	—	27.0	21.4
Imphal	23.4	25.1	21.5	Srinagar	—	34.6	20.9
Jaipur	6	31.9	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	2	30.7	24.0
Kochi	38	30.2	23.6	Tiruchi	—	35.1	27.0
Kohima	23	23.4	15.4	Vijayawada	0.8	34.4	27.0
Kolkata	2	33.6	27.6	Visakhapatnam	7	28.8	24.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	77	47	33	49	
Bengaluru	11	3	25	33	151	
Chennai	15	24	26	49	71	
Delhi	20	30	97	120	111	
Hyderabad	5	9	74	91	95	
Kolkata	3	45	25	54	53	
Lucknow	43	12	7	165	—	
Mumbai	36	4	5	75	94	
Pune	—	47	43	34	64	
Visakhapatnam	8	76	40	61	84	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Surat, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 272 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Commissioner, East Zone,
Mayohall premises, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No. JC/E/TEND/07/2024-25 Date: 23.06.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Joint Commissioner, East Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following work.

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Minimum Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1	Collection of Parking Fees for M.G. Road (From Mayohall Court Signal to LIC Building).	Rs. 70,00,000/-	Rs. 1,40,000/-

Period of Tender: **3 years + 2 years of extension.**
Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 25.06.2025.** **(2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **02.07.2025 at 4.30 pm at the above said office.** **(3)** Last date & time for submission of tenders: **11.07.2025 on or before 4.00 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Joint Commissioner, East Zone, BBMP

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2025-26/12 Dated: 17-06-2025

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Intermediate block signal between Arsikere and Banavara station on both Up and Down line.	Rs. 17,52,632.71

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2025-26/13 Dated: 17-06-2025

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Water Coolers at Railway stations Over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 20,72,473.20

Last date for submission of bids for above: **Tenders Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 08-07-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/213/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **SMT.M.ANANDHI CHOLAN AND SRI.M.ADITYA CHOLAN** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dt.26.04.2006 registered as document No.2173/2006-07 of Book I, Stored in CD No.BASD237 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore South Bangalore in respect of Site No.81, Situated in the layout known as **Kammanahally 2nd Phase, Bannerghatta Road,** formed by The Customs & Central Excise House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd., Situated at **Kammanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring East to West 80.25+73.25/2 feet and North to South 80 feet, total measuring **6140** Sq.ft., has been lost at the time of travelling.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present along with that **Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No.1667423/2025, dated 23.06.2025.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

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(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ : ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು, ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು –560 010
ಫೋನ್/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 91–080–23143566 / 23389070 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:kssidcho@karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : www.kssidc.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಮನ್ವಯ:ಬೆಂ.ವಿ:ಮಳಿಗೆ:ನಿವೇಶನ:ಹಂಚಿಕೆ:ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:2025/01 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.06.2025

ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಮಳಿಗೆ/ನಿವೇಶನ/ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ನಿಗಮದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಮಳಿಗೆ/ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಯಥಾಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು ಹೆಸರು	ಮಳಿಗೆ/ನಿವೇಶನ/ಗೋದಾಮು/ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಚ.ಮೀ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ	ಪ್ಲಾಟ್/ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ		ಮಳಿಗೆ/ನಿವೇಶನ/ಗೋದಾಮು/ಪ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಗಳ ಮೌಲ್ಯ		ಅರ್ಜಿ ಜೊತೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇಎಂಡಿ/ಭದ್ರತಾ ಠೇವಣಿ	
			ಪ್ಲಾಟ್	ನಿವೇಶನ	ದರ ಚ.ಮೀ.ಗೆ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೌಲ್ಯ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ ದವರಿಗೆ ಶೇ.10 ರಂತೆ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಪ.ಜಾ/ಪ.ಪಂ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ ದವರಿಗೆ ಶೇ.5 ರಂತೆ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ								
ಮುತ್ತುಗದಹಳ್ಳಿ	500.00	ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತ	-	C-26	15600	85,80,000	8,58,000	–
	568.00	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1	-	SPL-8	15600	97,46,880	9,74,688	–
	638.40	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2	-	SPL-23	15600	1,19,50,848	11,95,085	–
ಪೀಣ್ಯಾ 2ನೇ ಹಂತ	346.33	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	-	S.F-9	72000	2,78,72,900	27,87,290	13,93,645
	346.33	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	-	S.F-10	72000	2,78,72,900	27,87,290	13,93,645
ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ								
ರಾಮನಗರ	157.50	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ	-	SPL-1	43000	67,72,500	6,77,250	3,38,625

E&OE
ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗಮದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವಿಧ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಮಳಿಗೆ/ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಾದ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ, ಮೌಲ್ಯ, ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊಬಲಗು, ಪರಿಶೀಲನಾ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ನೀಡಲಾಗುವ ಸಹಾಯಧನ, ಪ್ರವರ್ಗವಾರು ವಿವರ, ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಸಮಗ್ರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಕೈ.ವ) / ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು(ಕೈವ) (ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ) ರವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗಮದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.kssidc.co.in** ನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.07.2025 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5–00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆವಿಗೆ** ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು(ಕೈವ) ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ/ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಚೆವಿ/1422/2025–26

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Titan Company Launches Masaorambhu Stream Project in Coimbatore, Replenishing 100M Litres and Impacting 4,000+ Lives

Recently Titan Company Ltd with the vision to improve water security in the region, officially inaugurated the Masaorambhu Stream Restoration Project in Thondamuthur Block, Coimbatore, an instrumental initiative led in partnership with Siruthuli. The comprehensive water-body revival effort is designed to replenish 10 crore litres of water, thereby creating a perennial water source to support agriculture and livestock, and significantly improve groundwater levels across the rural hilly catchment. The ceremony was graced by dignitaries including Mr. C K Venkataraman, MD, Titan Company Limited and other dignitaries "Water security is not just an environmental concern but a socio-economic imperative for rural communities," said Mr. C K Venkataraman. A community maintenance committee–formed under a memorandum of understanding with Siruthuli and the local Gram Sabha–will oversee long-term stewardship of the water resource, ensuring sustained benefits from restored flow and groundwater recharge. As these interventions mature, Titan envisions scaling this model across neighbouring catchments, establishing replenished groundwater, revived streams, and restored biodiversity as the foundation for sustainable agriculture and community prosperity.

HAL & Safran strengthen their cooperation to produce forged parts for Leap Engines

At the 55th edition of the Paris Air Show, HAL, India's leading aerospace and defence company signed an agreement with Safran Aircraft Engines, the world's leading French engine manufacturer in the design, development and production of aircraft engines, for the industrialization and production of rotating parts for LEAP engines. Mr Abdul Salam, GM, LCA Division, signed an agreement with Mr Dominique Dupuy, VP, Purchasing, Safran Aircraft Engines yesterday. This agreement supports the government's "Make in India" policy. "We are really proud to expand this long-standing partnership with Safran and to develop our industrial expertise in forging processes for Inconel parts for the LEAP program", said Dr D K Sunil, CM & MD of HAL. "We are pleased to extend our collaboration with HAL, a key player of the Indian aerospace industry," said Dominique Dupuy, Safran Aircraft Engines' Purchasing VP. "This industrial cooperation is part of our roadmap to diversify our production sourcing and strengthen our industrial footprint in India, so as to support the growth of domestic air traffic with our LEAP engine and prepare for future requirements of military parts."

BEL, Metamind & Persistent Systems sign Tripartite MoU to offer innovative AI-driven software solutions

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Metamind Systems Private Limited and Persistent Systems Limited have signed a tripartite MoU to jointly develop and deliver innovative software products, solutions and service offerings in the domains of Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and Cyber Security across sectors such as Aerospace & Defence, Healthcare, Telecommunications, Energy, Smart Cities and other technology-driven industries. The tripartite MoU was signed by Smt Durga G K, Executive Director (Software), BEL; Sri Hrishikesh Kinikar, Director, Metamind Systems Private Limited; and Sri Rajesh Gharpure, Chief Delivery Officer, Persistent Systems Limited in the presence of Sri Rajnish Sharma, Director (Bengaluru Complex), and Sri Manoj Jain, CM & MD, BEL.

Bank of Baroda Commemorates International Day of Yoga 2025 as Part of its Year-Round Employee Health & Wellness Framework

Bank of Baroda one of India's leading public sector banks, celebrated the International Day of Yoga 2025 across all its offices as part of its comprehensive BOB Employee Health and Wellness Framework. On International Day of Yoga, the Bank organized in-person Yoga sessions for employees across locations, led virtually by a certified Yoga instructor. Bengaluru Zone organised Yoga Camp at Palace Ground where more than 600 participant were present ,Speaking on the occasion, Shri Manoj Chayani, CGM & Zonal head, Bank of Baroda spoke about, the health and welfare of employees being top priority. Bank of Baroda has prioritised health and wellness as a core strategic initiative. The Bank's Employee Health and Wellness Framework is comprehensive & holistic by design, covering Physical Health, Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing and Other Health & Wellness initiatives.

Polls and processes

The ECI is taking some proactive steps towards transparency

The results of the by-elections in five Assembly constituencies – Kadi (SC) and Visavadar in Gujarat, Nilambur in Kerala, Ludhiana West in Punjab and Kaliganj in West Bengal – indicate the factors at play at the local and regional levels. The Congress-led United Democratic Front candidate Aryadan Shoukath won the Nilambur seat. P.V. Anvar, who had won in 2021 as a Left-backed independent, vacated the seat after a spat with the ruling coalition, contested as a Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate (which was rejected) and then stood as an independent. The seat falls in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency represented by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate performed poorly. The outcome could impact the tone of the campaigning for the Kerala Assembly elections due next year. The alignment of communities and relative power of parties in both Fronts will be affected by the Nilambur result. In the Kaliganj constituency in Nadia district, the ruling TMC's candidate Alifa Ahmed won by a margin of over 50,000 votes. Her father's death had led to the by-poll. Counting day was marred by the death of a child in a crude bomb explosion, a sign of the continuing and disturbing role of violence in the State. Assembly elections in West Bengal will take place next year.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s wins in Visavadar and Ludhiana West are significant for a party that lost power in Delhi, its original stronghold, in February. Its MLA in Visavadar had defected to the BJP, and the renewed mandate helps AAP retain its stake in State politics. Its former State president Gopal Italia is the winner. AAP's former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and industrialist Sanjeev Arora won the Ludhiana West seat in a State it rules. The BJP retained Kadi. The by-polls were also notable for the new initiatives by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to reinforce the integrity of the electoral process and make it more accessible. These include mobile deposit facility for the electors at all polling stations, upgraded voter turnout sharing process resulting in faster updating of the approximate polling trends, and most significantly, webcasting at 100% of polling stations. The issues of disputes over heavy polling in sensitive booths in the concluding hours of voting and transparency related to video records of booth activities remain, and the ECI must continue to take proactive measures to not only be fair but also to be seen so.

Many images

Governors should not play up divisive images in official functions

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's obstinate use of contentious political iconography has shattered the veneer of harmony with the State government that marked his early months in office. Over the last fortnight, two Kerala Ministers have protested and boycotted official events held at the Raj Bhavan, taking strong exception to a garlanded portrait of Bharat Mata – Mother India – in front of a lion and holding a saffron flag against what appears to be a map of Akhand Bharat (undivided India). Leaders of the ruling Left Democratic Front decried the imagery, condemning it as a ploy to inject a Hindu nationalist agenda into the constitutional office of the Governor. Mr. Arlekar nonchalantly ascribed the idea to the spirit of nationalism and patriotism. The rift has since spilled over into the streets, leading to confrontations between workers of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Bharatiya Janata Party across the State. The Mother India motif traces its origins to the late 19th century work, *Anandamath*, by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, which personified the country as an oppressed Hindu goddess with a glorious past aspiring to regain her enormous might. It featured 'Vande Mataram', which became hugely popular and accepted as India's national song. With the nationalist movement taking shape, the image found countless iterations across forms of cultural and political expression. In the early 20th century, artist Abanindranath Tagore depicted Bharat Mata as a four-armed goddess holding a piece of white cloth, sheaves of paddy, a book and a string of beads. While *Anandamath* came under criticism for its perceived communal undertones, with the image being appropriated by Hindu religious nationalists, Abanindranath's image was seen as a 'humanisation' of the divine mother. If painter Amrita Shergill poignantly pictured Mother India as a pining mother staring into an uncertain future, political and cultural portrayals of Mother India relied on the metaphor of a woman who was a divine, benevolent custodian of customs and traditions, with the imagery drawing heavily from Hindu iconography. Her flag changed between the tricolour and saffron, depending on who portrayed the image. Calendar art pinned up many iterations in drawing rooms. While films such as *Mother India* cemented the stereotype, Satyajit Ray's *Devi* called out the deification of women as a patriarchal tool of subjugation.

But religious nationalists continued to weaponise the symbolism, imaginatively blending the visual of a decked-up Hindu goddess with a united Hindu Rashtra. Secularists such as M.F. Husain, too, were drawn to the idea of the nation as a woman and it got deeply etched in the collective psyche of the people. Given the lack of a standard depiction of the metaphor of Mother India, the present controversy was avoidable. Governors would do well to desist from employing a Hindu majoritarian version of a multilayered iconic image for political expediency.

Iran's n-programme, the illusion of a surgical strike

Sabine Ameer

is an architect-urban planner and a doctoral researcher (international relations) in the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Glasgow, U.K.

In renewed tensions in West Asia, Israel – and now the United States – struck Iran's nuclear infrastructure, targeting multiple nuclear facilities and its top nuclear scientists. Iran retaliated with drone and missile attacks, some of which have penetrated the Iron Dome defence system. Amid the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, it is worth asking a basic but urgent question. Can Iran's nuclear programme actually be dismantled with military action? The short answer is no – or not easily. Despite decades of planning, rhetoric, and covert action, the military option against Iran's nuclear ambitions remains not only deeply complex but also operationally limited and strategically risky.

Inside Iran's nuclear programme

Iran has designed much of its nuclear infrastructure with a military strike in mind. Its key uranium enrichment facilities – most notably at Fordow and Natanz – are buried underground and reinforced with much steel and reinforced concrete. Fordow, for instance, is located in a mountain near the city of Qom, about 80 metres to 100 m beneath the surface, protected by layers of reinforced concrete and rock (RCC). These sites are not merely hardened; they are hardened with intent. Conventional air-dropped bombs or missiles are insufficient to destroy such facilities. Only the most powerful bunker-busting bombs could possibly damage these subterranean enrichment bunkers. While the U.S. possesses these bombs, Israel is not known to.

Underground nuclear bunkers could be penetrated through specialised bunker-busting munitions such as the U.S.-developed GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP). This 30,000 pound precision-guided bomb is designed to penetrate up to 60 m of earth or 18 m of reinforced concrete. But there is a catch. The MOP needs to hit its target precisely and repeatedly, often over several days, to be effective against the deepest military targets underground. Israel, for all its military prowess, does not currently possess the GBU-57. Nor does it have aircraft capable of carrying such an enormous bomb; the MOP requires a B-2 Spirit or B-52 Stratofortress bomber, both of which are exclusive to the U.S. Air Force. The U.S. Air Force caused an online stir after it announced having used B-2 Spirit bombers in 2024 on underground Houthi targets in northern Yemen.

Israel does have an array of air-to-ground munitions such as the GBU-28, which can penetrate reinforced bunkers, but its effectiveness is capped at about 5m to 6m of concrete or roughly 30 m of earth. However, this is simply not enough against a facility such as Fordow. Reports suggest that Israel has upgraded its F-35I stealth fighters for long-range missions and bunker-busting capabilities, but even these cannot guarantee success against the most fortified Iranian sites. While "Israel can damage key Iranian nuclear facilities", it "cannot destroy hardened sites like Fordow without U.S. military assistance". Even if Natanz and Fordow were destroyed, Iran could rebuild them – and possibly faster than in the past, having learned lessons from earlier disruptions. For instance, after the 2010 Stuxnet cyberattack, which disrupted nearly 1,000 centrifuges at Natanz, Iran not only repaired the damage but further expanded its capacity.

> Iran's nuclear programme is a vast and hardened system that cannot be undone with a few air strikes; instead, what would work is sustained diplomacy

Israel has successfully executed preemptive strikes in the past – against Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981 and Syria's Al-Kibar facility in 2007. But those targets were isolated, above ground, and in the early stages of development. Iran is a completely different case – its nuclear programme is decades old, technologically mature, and deeply embedded into its military and scientific infrastructure. Unlike Osirak or Al-Kibar, Iran's nuclear programme is spread out, duplicated, and heavily fortified, not to mention backed by a more robust and regionally connected military establishment. This is evident in the fact that recent Israeli strikes most likely failed to destroy the repository of Iran's near-bomb-grade nuclear fuel. The simple truth is that if Israel were to attempt a unilateral strike on Iran's nuclear programme, it would struggle to dismantle it fully. At best, it could delay it, and, that too, only temporarily.

Conflict escalation

This is the reason why Israeli leaders, both past and present, have often sought the U.S.'s backing for any significant military action against Iran. U.S. President Donald Trump, in his earlier previous tenure, hinted multiple times that Israel might be given access to advanced American technology including MOP-class weapons. In 2020, talks resurfaced around selling Israel bunker-buster bombs capable of penetrating heavily fortified underground facilities. According to open-source intelligence and defence analysts, no such transfer has occurred – at least not officially. Moreover, even if the U.S. was to provide operational assistance for Israel's military action in Iran, the logistical and political costs for both the U.S. and Israel would be monumental.

Launching such an operation would require access to regional airspace, potentially violating the sovereignty of nations such as Iraq or Saudi Arabia, and would very likely provoke a larger regional war. Iran could retaliate through its proxies – Hezbollah in Lebanon, militias in Iraq and Syria, or Houthi rebels in Yemen. It could also directly strike Israeli or American assets in the Gulf.

Tehran has already signalled that any military action against its nuclear facilities would be met with a "crushing" response. Given its ballistic missile capabilities and strategic alliances, this is not mere bluster. In April 2024, Iran showcased its ability to overwhelm Israeli air defences by launching over 300 drones and missiles in retaliation for an Israeli strike in Damascus, but most were intercepted. The message was clear: Iran would retaliate to any Israeli strike with equal fire.

Revisit diplomacy

A full-scale regional war would likely disrupt global oil supplies, destabilise already fragile states, and drag the U.S. and its allies into a protracted conflict – one that may not even achieve its primary objective. All of this brings us to the uncomfortable but necessary conclusion: diplomacy, however imperfect, remains the only viable long-term solution to curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) had, to some extent, restricted Iran's nuclear programme and subjected it to international inspections. Since the U.S.'s withdrawal from the deal in 2018, Iran has violated the terms of the JCPOA agreement by lifting the cap on its stockpile of uranium, which is now 30 times the level permitted. It has also steadily expanded its enrichment activities to 60% and reduced cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

A new nuclear deal will undoubtedly be harder to negotiate, especially amid regional turmoil and deepening mistrust. However, it is still more feasible than launching a war that cannot guarantee a decisive outcome. The alternative – a "forever cycle" of attacks, retaliation, and escalation – is far costlier and could destabilise the region. Calls for "bombing Iran" often ignore the technical and tactical realities on the ground that Iran's nuclear programme is not a single facility waiting to be destroyed. It is a vast, hardened, and redundant system that cannot be undone with a few air strikes. For Israel, or even the U.S., the idea of a clean, surgical strike on Iran's nuclear programme is a dangerous illusion. What is needed is not military action but diplomatic strategy backed by multilateral pressure, careful verification, and robust deterrence.

Iran's nuclear programme is not just technically advanced. It is architecturally resilient, explicitly designed to withstand military strikes. If there is one lesson to be learned from the last two decades of the Middle East policy, it is this. Wars are easy to start but almost impossible to end. If the strikes now are to escalate to a full-fledged war, the cost of failure would be catastrophic.

The sorry state of South Asian economic integration

Shashank Patel

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In the year so far there were two major incidents that shook India's economic and national security landscape: the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the Trump administration and the terror attack in Pahalgam. While these events may seem unrelated, their underlying causes and consequences are deeply interlinked, highlighting the urgent need for a comprehensive regional approach to security and economic stability. Economic and national security are often discussed separately, but they are deeply intertwined.

Border disputes among South Asian nations significantly hamper trade and economic cooperation, preventing the region from achieving its full potential. Economic instability fuels unrest, while security threats disrupt trade and investment. No country can achieve lasting security without economic prosperity, and vice versa.

One of the least integrated

The South Asian region is one of the least economically integrated regions in the world. Intraregional trade of South Asia (South Asian Free Trade Area or SAFTA) accounts for barely 5% to 7% of its total international trade, which is the lowest when compared to other trading blocs. In contrast, intraregional trade accounts for approximately 45% of total international trade within the European Union (EU), 22% within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and around 25% within North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Current trade among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries is just around $23 billion, far below the estimated $67 billion. According to a United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) study, South Asia's potential trade could have reached $172 billion by 2020, which means over 86% of its capacity remains unexploited. Even if we consider this assessment to be optimistic, the immense potential for significantly increasing intra-SAARC trade can never be denied. South Asia, the most populous region of the world (25% of the world's population), represents a combined market of only $5 trillion in GDP. On the other side, the EU, with 5.8% of the world's population, accounts for $18 trillion in GDP, and NAFTA has a GDP of $24.8 trillion. This clearly shows the underexploited capacity of the South Asian region.

> Trust deficits and regional conflicts are hindering the full implementation of key trade agreements

There is much potential

As estimated by the UNESCAP South Asia Gravity Model of intraregional trade, in spite of trade liberalisation under SAFTA, intraregional trade in South Asia is less than a third of its potential. Bangladesh has the highest unexploited proportion, at 93%, followed by the Maldives (88%), Pakistan (86%), Afghanistan (83%), and Nepal (76%). Because of terror insurgencies and border disputes, trade between India and Pakistan has seen a significant decline over the years. Bilateral trade between India and Pakistan fell from $2.41 billion in 2018 to $1.2 billion in 2024. Further, Pakistani exports to India fell from $547.5 million in 2019 to just $480,000 in 2024.

South Asia's trade-to-GDP ratio decreased from 47.30% in 2022 to 42.94% in 2024. Additionally, the World Bank reported a softened growth forecast of 5.8% for 2025, down from 6% in 2024. As imports have grown faster than exports for all South Asian countries, the trade deficit of the subregion has widened from $204.1 billion in 2015 to $339 billion in 2022. However, the value of overall trade, covering both exports and imports, increased significantly between 2015-22 to approximately $1,335 billion.

Despite SAFTA, trading with neighbours is not 'free'. The inefficient trade governing mechanism and an unpromising political environment increase the cost of intraregional trade, which is one of the major reasons for significantly smaller intra-regional trade. Costs of trading within South Asia remain high at 114% of the value of the goods being exported, making trading with neighbouring nations more expensive or less competitive, compared to trading with distant partners.

For instance, South Asia's bilateral trade cost with the U.S. is only 109% despite the vastly greater distance. It is about 20% more costly for a company in India to trade with Pakistan than with Brazil, which is 22 times farther away. This discourages the formation of regional value chains despite the geographic contiguity. In contrast, intraregional trade costs for ASEAN are some 40% lower than intra-SAARC trade costs, at 76%, creating high incentives for interdependence in that bloc.

The main hurdles

The low level of intraregional trade in South Asia demonstrates the absence of strategic policies. SAFTA and other regional agreements have the potential to create greater economic linkages. Besides, over two-thirds of the potential of intraregional trade in goods, the potential of trade in services, and investments in South Asia remain untapped. To this end, greater regional cooperation could facilitate the development of complementary and mutually beneficial export sectors by focusing on lowering trade barriers.

SAARC had the aim of ending distrust and tension, but trust deficits and regional conflicts hinder the full implementation of agreements such as SAFTA. Political diversity, regional disputes, minority issues and terrorism are major obstacles to regional cooperation. Most SAARC countries are in conflict with each other, preventing effective regional integration. Lesser trade opportunity means lesser capacity for innovation, production and investment in the people of the country. Therefore, to exploit the full potential of the South Asian region, members must work actively to enhance intra-regional trade, keeping aside their bilateral conflicts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The aggressor

America's bombing of Iran has simply proved that U.S. President Donald Trump cannot be trusted in negotiations. Mr. Trump is under the illusion that might is good enough to overcome established order and norms. A bombastic Mr. Trump's credibility as a leader is at a low ebb. A man who is craving for the Nobel Peace Prize has overnight become a "warmonger" and "globalist aggressor". New Delhi must be keenly observant of Pakistan trying to cosy up to Mr. Trump.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Adivasi identity

The Census plays an extremely crucial role, through data collection, for policymaking and understanding population trends. The weak and the poor, the neglected and the voiceless have the first right on welfare measures, schemes and support ('Opinion' page, "Recognising Adivasi identity in the Census", June 23). There is already a very wide gap between the urban and rural regions. Development and progress would meet their objectives only if there is even growth. Economic growth, revenue realisation and trade would be meaningless if the voiceless are left out.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

ED notice to advocates

It is shocking that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued summons to senior advocates Arvind Datar and Pratap Venugopal for legal opinion. They were only exercising their professional right. The notices were withdrawn after strong protests by the Bar. Mr. Datar at one point was considered for direct elevation as a Supreme Court judge. He is a pre-eminent tax lawyer and has appeared in High Courts apart from the Supreme Court and argued matters of constitutional importance. He has written three volumes on the Constitution of India. This has to be mentioned in order to highlight how the ED has exceeded its power and authority. The entire Bar is aghast and slighted by the ED's actions. Its conduct undermines the dignity and the autonomy of the profession, thereby undermining the rule of law itself.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Inflation falls but not unemployment

Pulapre Balakrishnan

is a Honorary Visiting Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

M. Parameswaran

is Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

At less than 3%, the inflation figure for May is well within the target set by the government of India. This has led to a celebration in the media of the Reserve Bank of India's prowess in macroeconomic management. What has received next to no acknowledgement, though, is that in the same month, unemployment had risen. Thus, while year-on-year inflation fell from 3.2% in April to 2.8% in May, the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey shows that the unemployment rate rose from 5.1% in April to 5.8% in May.

For those employed, as most commentators on the economy are likely to be, a reduction in inflation is good news, to the extent that their purchasing power is being eroded at a lower rate. But for those seeking employment, it makes no difference. They remain unemployed. A branch of economic theory dominant in the U.S. asserts that the unemployed have chosen not to work, as the market mechanism enables everyone who wishes to work to find employment. One needs only to visit the town centre in semi-urban areas to find migrant labourers milling around at midday to conclude that this would be a preposterous claim to make for India.

So, the first thing to note is that to monitor inflation while neglecting unemployment, as the pundits do, is not a credible way of assessing the state of an economy. While missing the higher unemployment rate in May may be overlooked, as it is not part of the discourse on India's economy today, it is surprising that the considerable reduction in growth has not received as much attention, when growth has been the centrepiece of the government's pronouncements on the economy this past decade. The figures are as follows. GDP growth slid from 9.2% during 2023-24 to 6.5% in 2024-25. The observed rise in unemployment is consistent with this decline in growth.

Monitoring inflation while ignoring unemployment is not a credible way of assessing economic performance

The provisional estimates of GDP show the decline in growth to be spread across three quarters of the economy. Apart from Public Administration, for which the growth rate held, every other sector slowed in 2024-25. Agriculture alone grew faster, and much faster too. This development provides the clue to the decline in inflation. In 2024-25, the relative rates of growth of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors would have led to a reduction of the supply-demand gap for agricultural goods, particularly food, in turn contributing to a lowering of the inflation rate. This is evident in the sharp deceleration in food-price inflation from the peak of close to 11% in October 2024 to less than 1% in May 2025.

Monetary policy, which is the RBI's means for inflation control, could not have achieved the observed configuration of events. It would be difficult to maintain that an increase in the repo rate of just over 10% in June 2022, which has not been exceeded since, could have triggered so great a reduction in food inflation from late 2024. It is equally difficult to imagine that it could have brought about so widespread a slowing of the economy in 2024-25, especially of services, a large segment of which is unlikely to be dependent upon formal credit. On the other hand, the impact of a narrowing difference in the rates of growth of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of the economy, as witnessed, can have a direct impact on the inflation rate. The reduction in food-price inflation impacts inflation directly, as food prices are part of the consumer price index, and indirectly via rising wages, which feed into the price of non-agricultural goods.

Econometric evidence

We have so far evaluated the role of monetary policy in relation to events. The economics profession usually settles empirical issues via econometrics—the application of statistical methods to economic models. This leaves little in doubt as to the inefficacy of monetary policy for inflation management. In our article "Inflation in India: Dynamics, distributional impact and policy implication" ('Structural change and Economic Dynamics', June 2025), we demonstrate that there is no conclusive evidence of the role of the interest rate in controlling inflation in India.

On the other hand, there is conclusive econometric evidence of the overwhelming role of the price of agricultural goods, driven by the relative rates of growth of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. Inflationary pressure generated by such a mechanism requires augmenting supply to be controlled. Inflation targeting, which works via contraction of demand, is not a solution. If, in the face of a persistent excess demand for agricultural goods, inflation is lowered by hiking the interest rate in order to restrain demand, other things remaining the same, inflation will rise when next the interest rate is lowered and growth revives.

Two final observations should seal the debate on RBI's role in lowering inflation rate. First, an allegedly sophisticated view of RBI's 'inflation targeting' holds that a central bank can control inflation by influencing expectations of economic agents. When we study the RBI's own data on the expectation of inflation by households, we find that it has remained almost unchanged from March 2024 to May 2025, and has been far higher than the RBI's target of 4%. Hence, the recent decline could not have been engineered by inflation targeting.

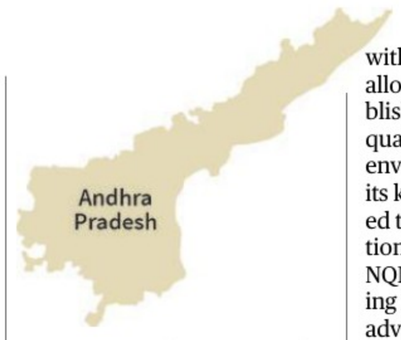
Secondly, after the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting, RBI Governor expressed willingness to lower repo rate again if inflation continues to decline. Such a stance would imply that India's monetary policy merely follows inflation rather than directing its course.

A Silicon Valley dream for Amaravati

CM Chandrababu Naidu's plans for a Quantum Valley could redefine the State

STATE OF PLAY

V. Raghavendra
raghavendra.v@thehindu.co.in



More than 25 years ago, N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of the unified State of Andhra Pradesh, had a dream to transform Hyderabad into a global city. He managed to do that by establishing the landmark HITEC City, which made the city famous. Cyberabad, the bustling township which the HITEC city evolved into over the years, is today home to many IT and IT-Enabled Services (ITES) companies.

He spearheaded the IT revolution with some valuable contributions from a host of luminaries, notably Bill Gates, under whose stewardship the Microsoft India Development Centre (MSIDC) was set up in Hyderabad. MSIDC was Microsoft's largest software development centre outside its headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

As the Chief Minister of the successor State of Andhra Pradesh now, Mr. Naidu plans to develop a Quantum Valley (QV) in Amaravati, on the lines of Silicon Valley, aimed at leading the State in quantum technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Going by its name, the QV will have physical and digital infrastructure of the highest order, for which the spadework has begun. The QV project is in alignment with the National Quantum Mission (NQM) that was approved by the Union Cabinet in April 2023. The objective of the NQM is to "seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT) and accelerate QT-led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country and make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies & Applications (QTA)".

According to the concept paper, it is modelled as India's first dedicated quantum computing and deep tech ecosystem and is set to be inaugurated by January 1, 2026; specific timelines have been fixed to facilitate this goal.

The QV project has three key components, namely Quantum Valley Tech Park, academic integration, and public sector applications. It will focus on quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices.

The government will soon appoint a Director for the Quantum Mission, which is going to be anchored by IBM. The Quantum Valley Tech Park is proposed to be developed in collaboration with IBM, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

As on date, the plan is to rope in IBM to install a 156-qubit Quantum System Two, touted to be the largest quantum computer in India, L&T to handle infrastructure development, and TCS to provide quantum computing services and hybrid computing solutions, and integrating quantum capabilities into sectors such as healthcare, finance and manufacturing. To start with, the Andhra government allocated 50 acres for the establishment of a state-of-the-art quantum computing centre envisioned to be the largest of its kind in India, and is expected to receive a substantial portion of the funding under the NQM. Since quantum computing hardware relies heavily on advances in cryogenics, nanofabrication, and semiconductor technologies, the QV is likely to include startups and research labs working on next-gen chipsets, quantum dot arrays and cryo-electronics.

The QV's infrastructure is being designed to integrate quantum systems with classical supercomputers to enable hybrid computing architectures intended to be used for climate modelling, genomics and encryption, among other things.

The DeepTech Park within the QV is meant for the establishment of space and defence institutions; discussions are under way with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up a testing lab, and the DRDO to form a Centre of Excellence.

A sum of ₹4,000 crore has been allocated for the QV project to be rolled out in two phases, the first one of which will be focused on infrastructure development, education and research, and pilot programmes and the second on propelling Andhra Pradesh towards global leadership and boosting commercialisation and export capabilities.

The QV is a daunting task that the government has taken; given that it is to be built from scratch in Amaravati, which itself is in a state of flux for multiple reasons, makes it even more daunting. Hence, from starting off in an iconic building proposed to be built by L&T to reaching completion, QV has a long way to go.

Gaza to Iran: Israel's illegal wars grow with U.S. support

What began as a response to the Hamas attack is quickly spiralling into an all-out regional conflict in West Asia

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

The United States' involvement in the Israel-Iran conflict has sparked concerns of an escalating regional conflict in West Asia. However, the U.S.'s stance isn't new. Data shows that it has supported Israel's offensive acts steadfastly amid calls for ceasefires and even when the latter was accused of war crimes.

Only last year, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, citing allegations of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including starvation as a method of warfare. The then U.S. President Joe Biden had defended Israel and "rejected the ICC's application for arrest warrants". News reports show that the people of Gaza continue to starve as Israel still restricts food trucks and aid from entering the region.

Chart 1 shows that fewer than a thousand food trucks entered Gaza in the past two months – the lowest in at least a year. The food aid provided also drastically decreased from 2 lakh tonnes in February this year to less than 20 thousand tonnes in June this year.

But the war is not just confined to Gaza now. Israel has intensified its attacks on other countries in the region as well. What began as a response to the October 7 Hamas attack in 2023 is quickly spiralling into an all-out regional conflict in West Asia. Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) data shows that Israel alone has launched over 42,000 attacks in the region, with almost 25,000 on Palestine alone (**Chart 2**).

Close to 60,000 people have been killed in the attacks carried out by Israel in the 615 days between October 7, 2023 and June 13, 2025. More than 55,000 people were from Palestine, with more than 17,000 victims being children. Apart from Gaza, people have been killed in attacks launched by Israel in Yemen, Lebanon, Iran and Syria in the period.

While many countries have repeatedly expressed concerns about the grave humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza, the UN has been urging through resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire. Data shows that the U.S., despite international concerns, has diplomatically shielded Israel in the international arena (**Table 4**). It has been against all resolutions concerning Palestine and ceasefire, except for Security Council resolution 2735 (2024).

Israel has refused all resolutions brought to the table. India, which had voted "yes" in several resolutions demanding a ceasefire or humanitarian aid in the region, has abstained in the latest resolution passed on June 12 which had demanded a ceasefire again. This is the fourth time India has abstained from voting in a resolution asking for a ceasefire in Gaza in the past three years.

The U.S. continues to back Israel militarily and with foreign aid. According to a press release from March this year, the Trump administration has approved nearly $12 billion in major foreign military sales to Israel.

The United States on Sunday struck three prominent nuclear sites in Iran: Natanz, Fordo and Isfahan. While President Donald Trump congratulated the American warriors on their successful mission in Iran, data from YouGov, an international online research data and analytics technology group, shows most Americans are wary of the U.S.'s entanglement in a conflict. Most Americans thought the U.S. military should not get involved in the conflict between Israel and Iran (**Chart 5**). The figure was higher across Democrats and Republicans alike. Only 16% of all U.S. citizens felt that their country should even get involved in Israel's latest conflict.

Pursuing death and destruction

The data for the charts were sourced from ACLED, WHO, COGAT, UN Voting library and YouGov

Chart 1: The number of food trucks and food aid (in tonnes) allowed into Gaza in the last one year

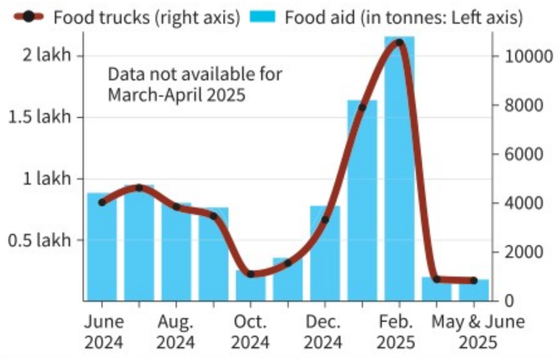


Chart 2: The number of attacks carried out by Israel in West Asia from October 7, 2023 to June 13, 2025

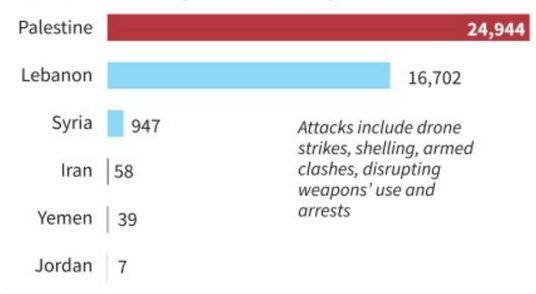


Chart 3: The chart shows the number of persons killed due to Israeli attacks in West Asia since October 7, 2023

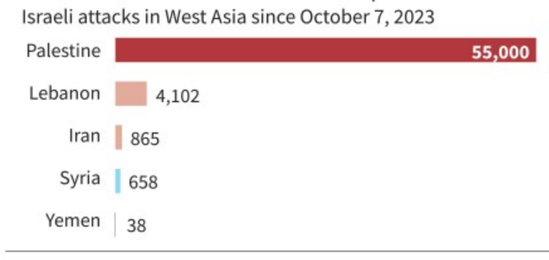
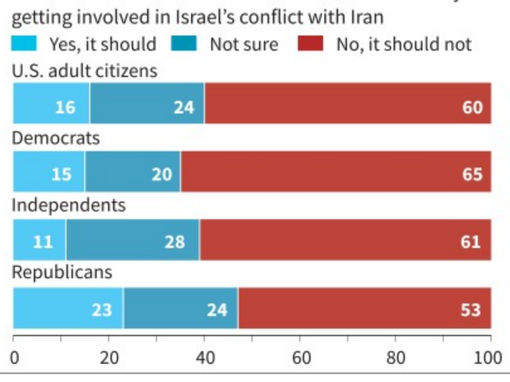


Table 4: How U.S., Israel and India voted on key resolutions concerning Palestine since October 7, 2023

	U.S.	Israel	India
Resolution 1	No	No	Abstained
Resolution 2	No	No	Yes
Resolution 3	No	No	Abstained
Resolution 4	No	No	Yes
Resolution 5	No	No	Yes
Resolution 6	No	No	Yes
Resolution 7	No	No	Yes
Resolution 8	No	No	Abstained
Resolution 9	No	No	Yes
Resolution 10	No	No	Yes
Resolution 11	No	No	Yes
Resolution 12	No	No	Abstained
Resolution 13	No	No	Yes
Resolution 14	No	No	Yes
Resolution 15	No	No	Yes
Resolution 16	No	No	Abstained

Note: Not all resolutions were about ceasefire

Chart 5: What U.S. citizens think about their country getting involved in Israel's conflict with Iran



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1975

Two-hour TV programmes in Madras from Aug. 15

MADRAS. June 23.

The Madras Television Centre will start transmitting two-hour programmes daily from August 15, it was officially announced to-day.

Sixty per cent of the transmission time from 7 to 9 p.m. will be devoted to educational and informative programmes, and the rest to entertainment such as films, music and dance. There will be two news bulletins daily, one in English and the other in Tamil. Tamil gets 80 per cent of the time, English 12 per cent and other languages eight per cent. Apart from the evening transmission, there will be programmes for primary and pre-school children twice a week in the mornings.

The Centre, which will initially use a one-kilowatt transmitter and a 36 metre high temporary antenna, will cover an area of 19 kilometre radius. It will start full-scale operation from mid-January 1976 using a 10 kw transmitter and a 175 metre high transmission tower now under erection. It will then have a range of 90 k.m., upto Tirupati, and the duration of the programmes will be increased to four hours.

Mr. T. R. Muralidharan, who has taken over as Director of the Madras Centre, told newsmen to-day that a task force was working hard to begin transmission on the target date.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 24, 1925

Teaching of agriculture in Bengal

(Associated Press of India)

CALCUTTA, June 23.

A scheme for the teaching of agriculture in Bengal has been submitted by a special committee, consisting of Mr. H. E. Stapleton, officiating Principal of the Presidency College, Mr. K. Maclean, officiating Fibre Expert, and Rai Manmathananth Rai Bahadur of Burdwan.

The Committee suggests the teaching of agriculture for a period of four years in the fifth and sixth classes of the Middle English Schools and in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes in the High English Schools. Until the experiment is proved to be successful, the number of schools opening agricultural classes should be supervised by the Agricultural Department so far as agriculture is concerned.

From Page One

Iran launches missiles at U.S. bases in Qatar, Iraq

Qatar's Foreign Ministry "strongly condemned" the Iran attack. "We consider this a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the State of Qatar, its airspace, international law, and the United Nations Charter," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said in a statement. "We affirm that Qatar reserves the right to respond directly in a manner equivalent with the nature and scale of this brazen aggression, in line with international law."

Just before the attacks, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian wrote on social media platform X: "We neither initiated the war nor seeking it. But we will not leave invasion to the great Iran without answer."

Iran said earlier on Monday that its missiles targeted Israeli cities of Haifa and Tel Aviv, according to Iranian state television. Explosions were also heard in Jerusalem, according to AFP. Israel's Magen David Adom emergency rescue service said there had been no reports of injuries on Monday.

U.S. President Donald Trump, in a social media post after the attack, said the American strikes "totally destroyed" Iran's nuclear facilities on Sunday, but remained quiet on Iran's missile attacks.

The Indian mission in Doha urged the Indian community "to be cautious and remain indoors". "Please remain calm and follow local news, instructions and guidelines provided by Qatari authorities," the Indian Embassy said in a social media post.

The attack came after a meeting between Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Mr. Araghchi described Iran-Russia ties as "very close and historic", and emphasised Iran's close coordination with Russia on regional and nuclear issues.

In Bahrain, a close neighbour of Qatar that hosts the U.S. Fifth Fleet, the American Embassy "temporarily shifted a portion of its employees to local telework", it said on X. Bahrain authorities had told most government employees to work from home until further notice, citing "regional circumstances" and asked schools to go online.

On Monday, Bahrain suspended air traffic temporarily after the Iran attack. "The Civil Aviation Affairs of the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications announced the temporary suspension of air navigation in the skies of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a precautionary measure in light of recent regional developments," Bahrain News Agency said in a statement.

Incumbent parties retain four bypoll seats

The Nilambur seat fell vacant after LDF-backed Independent and two-time MLA P.V. Anvar resigned. Mr. Anvar had won twice from the seat with LDF support before resigning as MLA following differences with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. He then fought the bypolls as an independent candidate backed by the Trinamool Congress.

The byelection in Kaliganj was necessitated due to the death of Trinamool Congress MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed.

It was seen as a litmus test for the ruling Trinamool and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee amid myriad controversies, including the loss of jobs of 25,753 teaching and non-teaching jobs in State-run schools.

In a post on X on Monday, Ms. Banerjee said: "In the by-election of the Kaliganj Assembly constituency, people from all religions, castes, communities, and all walks of life have overwhelmingly blessed us by exercising their voting rights. I humbly express my gratitude to them."

While reacting to the bypoll wins, AAP chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said he would not become a Rajya Sabha member in the wake of party Rajya Sabha MP Mr. Arora's election as MLA.

Bring back woman deported to Pak.: HC

"Human rights are the most sacrosanct component of a human life and, therefore, there are occasions when a constitutional court is supposed to come up with SOS-like indulgence, notwithstanding the merits and demerits of a case, which can be adjudicated only upon in due course of time. Therefore, this court is coming up with a direction to the Ministry of Home Affairs [MHA], Government of India (GOI) to bring back the petitioner from her deportation," the judge had said in the order.

"She took only ₹50,000 with her due to the cap on the currency one can carry across the border, and soon she will run out of money. First, she stayed in a paying guest accommodation and then moved to a hotel in Lahore. Her phone will stop working," the daughter said. She was picked up by the police and taken to the Attari border check point in Punjab, from where she was sent to Pakistan on April 30.

According to the court order, Sheikh Zahoor Ahmed, the husband of the petitioner, a retired government official, said his wife "has no one in Pakistan for her care and custody, particularly when she is suffering from multiple ailments and her health and life are at risk with each passing day and left to fend for herself as abandoned".

The court said needful compliance be carried out within a period of 10 days from the date of order.

'1985 Kanishka bombing is a reminder for zero tolerance to terrorism'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The 40th anniversary of the bombing of Air India's Kanishka aircraft is a moment to reiterate that there should be zero-tolerance to terrorism, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Monday.

His remarks coincided with the memorial event that was organised jointly on the Irish coast on the Atlantic Ocean, where Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri participated, and said India had been a victim of terrorism for over decades.

"We honour the memory of the 329 lives lost in one of the worst acts of terrorism. A stark reminder of why the world must show zero tolerance towards terrorism and violent extremism," said Mr. Jaishankar, paying tribute to the victims of the bombing who came from India, Canada, Ireland and other countries.

Mr. Puri led the Indian team to Cork, Ireland where a solemn ceremony was held at Ahakista.

Our jawans will win the war against Naxalism, says Shah

Home Minister says Naxal violence deprived poor tribal people of basic necessities; before March 2026, the country would become free from Naxalism under the leadership of PM Modi, he adds

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Monday held an interaction with security personnel at Nawa Raipur in Chhattisgarh. Lauding the personnel for their efforts in the anti-Naxal operations being conducted in the Bastar region, the Minister said Naxalism had deprived the poor tribal population of basic necessities.

"I have full faith that it is the bravery and tireless efforts of our security forces that make the battle against Naxalism a success. I know that what our jawans set out to achieve, they always accomplish," he added.

Mr. Shah asserted, "It is the trust in our security forces inspired by which I keep reiterating that we will eradicate Naxalism before March 31, 2026," he said.

He said Naxalism had led to the death of nearly 40,000 people over the past 35 years, while many more had been left disabled.

Ground visit: Amit Shah interacts with security personnel engaged in anti-Naxal operations in Nawa Raipur on Monday. PTI

'Slavery for decades'

Naxal violence deprived the poor tribal population of basic necessities such as food, electricity, education, housing, toilets, and clean drinking water – let alone any possibility of industrial development.

Entire regions were forced to live in conditions akin to slavery for decades, and the root cause of this suffering was Naxalism.

Mr. Shah expressed satisfaction that as Naxalism was being eliminated from various regions, the Chhattisgarh government was ensuring the delivery of food, healthcare, education, electricity, housing, sanitation, and clean drinking water – thereby connecting people with the mainstream of development. "When a child picks up a pencil instead of a gun and begins writing '*Ka, Kha, Ga*' [the Devnagri letters], it doesn't just change the future of that child, but of the entire nation," he said. "That moment is near."

The Home Minister said that when the country would become free from Naxalism in March 2026 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it would be one of the most significant moments since Independence.

He released a book, *Leor Oyna*, based on the lives of victims of Naxal violence.

According to an official statement, the book would help in "understanding the pain of those innocent and unarmed people who fell prey to the ruthless violence inflicted by Naxalites. It will also open the eyes of those who show sympathy towards Naxalites in the name of human rights and will be instrumental in exposing them".

Two held for harbouring Pahalgam attackers sent to NIA custody

Press Trust of India
JAMMU

A Jammu court on Monday granted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) a five-day remand of two accused who were arrested for harbouring the Pakistani terrorists behind the Pahalgam terror attack in April, officials said.

The two men – Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote, Pahalgam, and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park, Pahalgam – were arrested by the NIA on Sunday, in the first major breakthrough in the investigations into the attack that left 26 persons dead and 16 injured on April 22.

According to the NIA, the arrested accused have disclosed the identities of three terrorists involved in the attack, and have confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The two accused were sent to NIA custody for five days till June 27, a court official said. The duo had harboured the three terrorists, as per investigations.

Operation Sindoor met all objectives, instilled fear in terrorists, says Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Under the leadership of President Droupadi Murmu, Indian soldiers carried out the historic Operation Sindoor, achieving all objectives and instilling fear in the minds of terrorists, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Monday.

He released *Wings to Our Hopes* (Volume-II), a curated collection of 51 speeches of Ms. Murmu in Hindi and English along with the e-version.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Singh described Ms. Murmu as the best example of women-led development in India, adding that under the leadership of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Indian soldiers carried out the historic Operation Sindoor, achieving all objectives and instilling fear in the minds of terrorists.

He commended her for constantly encouraging the armed forces personnel, while also working relentlessly for the empowerment of the deprived sections of society. "Through her own life, President Murmu has set an inspiring example for everyone to have access to education and equal rights and opportunities. The ideals of courage, hard work, public service and spirituality are visible in her life and these can be read in her speeches as well," he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presents the first copy of the second volume of the book *Wings to Our Hopes* to President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. @RASHTRAPATIBHVN X

'Guiding light'

In his address, Mr. Singh described the compilation of the speeches – ranging from address to the nation as well as at universities, on innovation, contribution of women in the development of the country, to equality and cultural heritage – as the essence of the government's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.

"The book will become a guiding light to build Viksit Bharat with progressive thoughts while preserving our glorious heritage. President Droupadi Murmu knows the importance of diversity in our country and recognises the pain of the deprived. This book proclaims the spirit of equality," he said.

Over 20 terror targets were identified, nine attacked under Operation Sindoor

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Indian intelligence agencies and defence forces had identified more than 20 terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor, launched in May in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. India carried out missile strikes on nine of them later.

According to top defence sources, after a list of more than 20 terrorist targets was drawn up, it was discussed in detail at a meeting of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with the chiefs of the Army, Air Force and the Navy.

"Markaz Taiba camp in Muridke and Markaz Subhanallah in Bahawalpur were on top of the list from Day One of the discussion. At the meeting, it was instructed that the attack should be precise and elaborate," a source said.

After the detailed discussion, all the options were tabled before Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Not just the planning of attack was discussed but also preparation for Pakistan's retaliation.

Retaliatory action: Under Operation Sindoor, India carried out nine missile strikes in Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam attack. ANI

"Escalation was expected but it was ensured that only terror installations were targeted. There was no significant damage to the Indian military bases as forces were prepared for the retaliation in advance," the source said.

Free hand to forces

It was clear after the Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by the Prime Minister that out of the more than 20 targets, nine had been finalised. It was decided that there should be no harm to civilian population, no religious sentiment should be hurt, and no military installations should be targeted.

This was made clear to the heads of intelligence agencies and defence forces during the Cabinet meeting.

"At the meeting, a free hand was given to the forces to take down any terror camp operating across the border at any location, while keeping in mind the factors discussed at the meeting," added the top defence source.

Doval begins China visit for SCO meet, Rajnath to arrive later

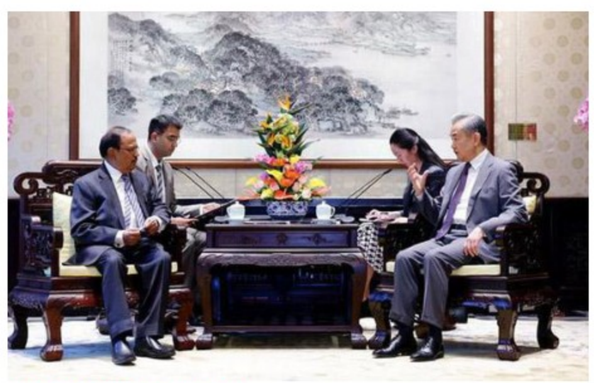
Suhasini Haidar
CHENGDU

India and China are set for their most intense week of engagement since the military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Operation Sindoor last month, as National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh travel to China for meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), officials confirmed.

Their visits will coincide with the arrival of the first batch of pilgrims from India to Tibet, who will reach Mount Kailash and the Mansarovar Lake on Tuesday, for the first time in six years. The resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is expected to be followed up by the resumption of direct flights between the two countries in the next few months, said official sources, adding that airlines are now "preparing" for flights as they await a formal notification from the Civil Aviation Ministry.

Mr. Doval arrived in Beijing on Monday and met with Foreign Minister and Special Representative (SR) on border talks Wang Yi. A statement by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said Mr. Wang told Mr. Doval there had been "some positive progress" in ties, and the "two sides need to further strengthen communication, enhance mutual trust, and work hard to solve practical problems".

"NSA (Doval) also emphasized the need to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations to maintain overall peace and stability in the region," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement, adding that Mr. Doval invited Mr. Wang to New Delhi to discuss the resolution of the border dispute as part of the SR process.



Diplomatic engagement: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

During their visits, Mr. Doval, and Mr. Singh, who will be in Qingdao for the SCO meeting on June 26-27, are expected to stress the importance of fighting cross-border terrorism.

The meetings of senior Security and Defence Ministers of SCO countries will come just days after the bombing of Iranian nuclear facilities by the U.S. and Israel, and the Ministers from 10 countries – Russia, China, India, Iran, Pakistan, Belarus and four Central Asian states – are expected to discuss the impact of military escalation on trade, energy, and geopolitics in the region.

The SCO meetings this week are expected to lead up to the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in July, which External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to attend, and the SCO Summit at the end of August in Tianjin, hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to travel to Tianjin for the first such visit to China since the Galwan Clashes in June 2020.

The resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra was agreed to during a visit by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to Beijing in January 2025 and followed up on June 12, when Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Sun Weidong visited New Delhi for talks. A total of 750 pilgrims will undertake the three-week trek over the next two months. On Monday, the first batch of 36 pilgrims reached Darchen for the culmination of the trek at Kailash Mansarovar.

(*With inputs from Jagriti Chandra in New Delhi*)

(The reporter is part of a delegation of journalists invited by the Embassy of China in India to cover the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra)

Lalu Prasad set to be re-elected RJD national president

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad on Monday filed nomination papers at the party office here for re-election as the party's national president. He was the only candidate to file nomination.

He filed the papers in four sets before national election officer Ramchandra Purve and national assistant election officer Chittaranjan Gagan.

Each set has the signatures of 10 members of the party's national council, including former Chief Minister Rabri Devi and Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav.

If all goes well, Mr. Prasad will become the party chief for a 13th term as he has held the top post ever since the party was formed in 1997 after a split in the then Janata Dal.

After the nomination, Tejashwi Yadav, Mr. Prasad's younger son and former Deputy Chief Minister, told presspersons, "Today Lalu Prasad*ji* has filed his nomination papers for the post of RJD national president. There is a wave of happiness among party leaders and workers. I fully trust that under the leadership of Lalu*ji* we will win the upcoming Assembly election."

Lalu Prasad filing nomination papers on Monday. ANI

Mr. Prasad posted a message on X saying, "Today, I filed my nomination for the president's post at the party office." "If the nomination is found correct and the name is not withdrawn, then by 3 p.m. [on June 24], a notification will be issued regarding Mr. Prasad's unopposed election to the post of national president of RJD," Mr. Gagan said.

Cong. slams Centre for not condemning U.S. bombing

It says Trump's decision to unleash American air power on Iran made a 'mockery' of his own calls for continuation of talks with Iran; party reiterates need for immediate diplomacy and dialogue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said that U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to unleash American air power on Iran made a "mockery" of Mr. Trump's own calls for the continuation of talks with Iran.

The party criticised the Narendra Modi government for neither criticising nor condemning the U.S. bombing of Iran, and Israel's aggression.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media platform X, reiterated the need for immediate diplomacy and dialogue with Iran.

"The Indian National Congress reiterates the absolute essentiality of immediate diplomacy and dialogue with Iran. The Government of India must demonstrate greater moral courage than it has so far. The Modi Government has unequivocally neither criticised nor condemned the U.S. bombing and Israel's aggression, bombings and targeted assassinations," he said in his post.

> The Congress reiterates the absolute essentiality of immediate diplomacy and dialogue with Iran. The Government of India must demonstrate greater moral courage than it has so far
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

"It has also maintained a deafening silence on the genocide being perpetrated on the Palestinians in Gaza," he added.

The statement comes a day after the U.S. bombed three major nuclear sites in Iran while directly entering the Israel-Iran conflict.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, conveying India's concern over the Israel-Iran conflict, and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy".

A day before the U.S. bombing, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, in an opinion piece in *The Hindu*, had criticised India's silence on devastation wreaked by Israel in Gaza, and Iran, calling it "not just a loss of its voice, but also a surrender of values".

"It is important to remember that the current Israeli leadership, under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has a long and unfortunate record of undermining peace and nurturing extremism. His government's continuing expansion of illegal settlements, its alliances with ultra-nationalist factions, and its obstruction of the two-state solution have not only deepened the suffering of the Palestinian people but also pushed the broader region toward perpetual conflict," Ms. Gandhi wrote.

"Israel's recent actions against Iran have taken place in an atmosphere of impunity, enabled by near-unconditional support from powerful western nations," she said, adding, "New Delhi's silence on the devastation in Gaza and now on the unprovoked escalation against Iran reflects a disturbing departure from our moral and diplomatic traditions. This represents not just a loss of voice but also a surrender of values."

INBRIEF

My life is in danger, says Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap

Tej Pratap Yadav, MLA and former Bihar Minister who was expelled from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) for six years, said in Patna on Monday that his life was in danger and demanded more security from the Bihar government. Mr. Pratap, the elder son of party supremo Lalu Prasad, said that "four or five persons had conspired against him" and and the people of Bihar understood very well the way he was expelled from the party. This was the first time he spoke to the media on his expulsion. He further rejected the speculation that he would form a separate party to contest the upcoming Assembly election.

'Govt. is using technology to exclude vulnerable people'

The Congress on Monday attacked the Narendra Modi government over the Women and Child Development Ministry's order that made face recognition authentication mandatory for anganwadi beneficiaries. It alleged that the Centre was systematically using technology to exclude the most vulnerable sections of society. Digital India must enable, not disempower, and it must not remain a "Preach Inclusion Practice Exclusion (PIPE)" dream, the party added. The Ministry has directed all States to implement a mandatory face recognition system for take-home ration distribution and child attendance monitoring at anganwadi centres.

BJP chief Nadda pays tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Bharatiya Janata Party president and Union Minister J.P. Nadda on Monday paid tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 72nd death anniversary, which was observed by the party as "Balidan Divas". The BJP chief said the Bharatiya Jana Sangh founding president "made the supreme sacrifice while opposing Articles 370 and 35A" of the Constitution, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir". "Dr. Mookerjee passed away under mysterious circumstances in Srinagar jail. The abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a historic step and a true tribute to Dr. Mookerjee's vision and sacrifice," he said.

Locomotive tender was executed transparently, says Railways

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The tender for manufacturing and maintaining 9,000-horsepower (hp) electric locomotives at Dahod in Gujarat was executed in a transparent manner, an Indian Railways spokesperson said on Monday.

The Indian Railways, which falls under the Ministry of Railways, was responding to allegations by the Congress over the process by which a ₹26,000-crore contract for manufacturing 9,000-hp locomotives was awarded to Siemens Ltd. by the Indian Railways.

The Congress, in a press conference on Monday, questioned the transparency in awarding the contract to Siemens, and called for a parliamentary inquiry into the issue.

"The recent statements by Siemens clearly indicate that only the final assembly, testing, and commissioning are being done at the factory in Dahod," former Congress MP Brijendra Singh said at the press conference.

"The tender for manufacturing and maintaining 9,000-hp electric locomotives was executed in a transparent manner," the Railways spokesperson said.

The tender was evaluated by a team of technical and financial experts, in line with the processes that the Indian Railways has always followed, they added.

Tharoor's praise of PM exposes Rahul: BJP

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday said that Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's opinion piece published in *The Hindu* had "exposed" the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Tharoor, in his article in *The Hindu* published on Monday, had written that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "energy, dynamism and willingness to engage" was a "prime asset for India on the global stage" and deserved greater backing.

The remarks have come at a time when the Congress has consistently been attacking the Centre over its foreign policy. The article has also illuminated a different path that Mr. Tharoor has been treading from his party, the Congress, on certain issues and the differences therein.

Reacting to Mr. Tharoor's comments, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari took potshots at the Congress. In a post on X, he said, "Shashi Tharoor admits that PM Modi's dynamism and global outreach are a strategic advantage for India. Shashi Tharoor exposes Rahul Gandhi." Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Office, through its official handle on X, also shared Mr. Tharoor's opinion piece in *The Hindu*.

Shashi Tharoor

In his article, Mr. Tharoor had said the diplomatic outreach following Operation Sindoor was a moment of national resolve and effective communication.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a prime asset for India on the global stage but deserves greater backing. The diplomatic outreach following 'Operation Sindoor' was a moment of national resolve and effective communication. It affirmed that India, when united, can project its voice with clarity and conviction on international platforms," he wrote.

Mr. Tharoor was one of seven leaders who led multi-party delegations to different world capitals to convey India's stand following the Pahalgam terror attack and the subsequent military operation.

Speaking in Thiruvananthapuram last week, Mr. Tharoor said he has differences of opinion with some in the party leadership, but refused to speak about those in light of the Nilambur Assembly bypoll.

Nine-year-old killed in crude bomb attack after Kaliganj bypoll results

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A nine-year-old girl was killed after crude bombs were hurled at her house at Kaliganj in Nadia district of West Bengal on Monday, hours after the result of the byelection to the Assembly seat were announced declaring the Trinamool Congress candidate the winner.

Family members of the girl said that crude bombs were hurled at the house by supporters of the Trinamool Congress. "I did not allow my daughter to go to school fearing there would be violence. We were going for a bath when bombs were thrown at us. They came and killed her inside our house," Sabina Yeasmin, the mother of the deceased child, said. She said she saw the faces of the people who hurled the bombs. The family members of the deceased child, a Class 4 student, said they were supporters of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and were targeted by Trinamool Congress supporters after the results. Several crude bombs were hurled in the neighbourhood in Molandi village of Kaliganj which left marks on the walls and roofs of the houses.

Tragic incident: Family members mourning after a nine-year-old girl was killed in a bomb explosion in Kaliganj in West Bengal. PTI

Deeply saddened: CM

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that she was "shocked and deeply saddened at the death of a young girl in an explosion at Barochandgar in Krishnanagar police district", and added that the police shall take strong and decisive legal action against the culprits at the earliest.

Superintendent of Police, Krishnanagar Police District, K. Amarnath visited the area and assured family members that the police would arrest the culprits. One person has been arrested in connection with the violence.

CPI(M) State secretary Mohammed Salim alleged that the incident was a "sample of brutality of Trinamool goons". Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said the Chief Minister's remarks over the incident was an attempt at "damage repairing".

Dhankhar calls for a shift in India's foreign policy imagination

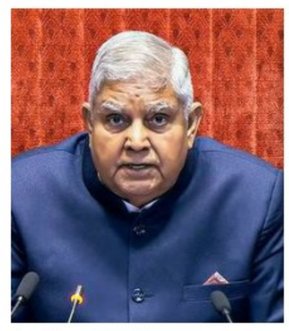
Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Hailing V.D. Savarkar as a "celebrated thinker who stood against the post-war order", Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday argued that global politics was dictated by realism and self-interest and not morality or solidarity.

Citing the global scenario, he called for a shift in India's foreign policy imagination, and added that this was the right time to move beyond "romanticism" and focus on economic and strategic strength.

Speaking at the launch of a book written by senior Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh leader Ram Madhav titled *New World: 21st Century Global Order in India*, Mr. Dhankhar said he felt the imprints of Savarkar in the author's thoughts. "Savarkar remains a celebrated thinker who stood at the wee hours of the post-war order. He was staunch realist and believed in a post-war world where nations would act only in pursuit of their own interests not based on idealism, morality or international solidarity. Imagine how prophetic he has been," said the Vice-President.

Praising the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for its diplomacy,


Jagdeep Dhankhar

Mr. Dhankhar said that the new India was steadfast, firm, non-negotiable, and, notwithstanding the critics, was spinally strong.

'Focus on growth'

"I could not agree more with lamentations of the author. He highlights a perpetual decline of global multilateralism and prescribes India to give up romanticism and focus on economic growth," he said, adding that similar thoughts were mooted by Sarvarkar.

Mr. Madhav said his book focused on the world shifting from the liberal international order formed after the Second World War. He said it was high time India reoriented its strategy to keep pace. On the Congress's allegations that India did not do enough for Iran, Mr. Madhav said international diplomacy must now be grounded in national interest, not ideological loyalty.

India slams OIC for its 'unwarranted' and 'incorrect' references

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Monday slammed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for making "unwarranted" and "factually incorrect" references to it while coming under influence of Pakistan, which has turned terrorism into "statecraft".

India's strong reactions came after a two-day foreign ministerial conclave of the OIC in Turkiye criticised New Delhi on a gamut of issues including what it said is "social marginalisation" of Indian Muslims.

The OIC called for strict adherence to bilateral pacts between India and Pakistan, including the Indus Waters Treaty and stressed the need for a broad-based dialogue for peaceful settlement of all outstanding disputes.

"India categorically rejects the unwarranted and factually incorrect references to India at the OIC council of foreign ministers' meeting," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

It said the OIC's repeated "failure" to acknowledge the real and documented threat of terrorism by Pakistan, most recently evidenced in the Pahalgam attack, reflects a "wilful disregard" for facts.

Deadline for exercising option under UPS extended

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Monday extended the cut-off date for exercising option under Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) by three months till September 30.

Earlier, eligible government employees, retirees, and spouses of deceased retirees were given three-month time up to June 30 to exercise their option under the scheme.

In view of the representations received from various stakeholders requesting an extension, the Centre has decided to extend the cut-off date for exercising the option for UPS by three months till September 2025, the Finance Ministry said.

The UPS is applicable to the Central government employees who are covered under the National Pension System (NPS) and who choose this option under the NPS, which came into effect on January 1, 2004. The option to choose between the UPS and the NPS can be exercised by 23 lakh government employees .

The Finance Ministry on Monday extended the cut-off date by three months till September 30

On August 24, 2024, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the UPS.

Under the old pension scheme, which ended in January 2004, employees got 50% of their last drawn basic pay as pension.

Unlike the OPS, the UPS is contributory in nature, wherein employees will be required to contribute 10% of their basic salary and dearness allowance while the employer's contribution (the central government) will be 18.5%.

However, the eventual payout depends on the market returns on that corpus, mostly invested in government debt.

INBRIEF

IndiGo employee accuses his seniors of caste-based abuse

A 35-year-old IndiGo airlines employee has accused his three seniors of caste-based abuse at workplace. A first information report has been registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at a police station in Gurugram. The airline, however, denied the allegations as "baseless claims". The complainant, a resident of Bengaluru, has alleged that he was called for a meeting in Gurugram's Sector 24 on April 28, during which the seniors subjected him to "caste-based verbal abuse, discrimination, and threats intended to humiliate and degrade" him for his caste.

India, Pak. extend airspace ban on each other till July 24

India on Monday extended the closure of its airspace for flights operated by Pakistan airlines by another month till July 24. The Indian airspace has been closed for planes operated, owned or leased by Pakistan airlines and operators, including military flights, since April 30. The ban was imposed as part of various measures taken by the Indian government against Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack. Meanwhile, Pakistan has also extended by one month the closure of its airspace for Indian aircraft till July 24. On April 24, Pakistan banned its airspace for India until May 24, after the Indian government suspended the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. The airspace curb was extended till June 24. PTI

SC to review rules on OBC certificate issuance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine the "important" issue of amending extant rules to provide Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to the children of single mothers who belong to the backward sections of society. "The present writ petition raises an important issue about issuance of OBC certificates to children of single mothers wherein the mothers belong to OBC... This has to be heard," a Bench headed by Justice K.V. Viswanathan said.

The case was filed by a Delhi-based woman, and the apex court had sought responses from the Centre and the Delhi government in January. The Centre had argued that the matter required extended consideration, and States need to be arraigned as parties in the case. The Centre said the court ought to be frame guidelines on the question.

The Bench fixed the case for further hearing on July 22. It referred to a 2012 verdict, which had dealt with the question surrounding the status of a person one of whose parents belonged to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

Indian private sector still in a 'developing' stage: Minister

The space sector has opened up to the private sector only a few years ago, so its capacity building has started only just now; we need a robust, developed private sector, says Jitendra Singh

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's private sector is still in a developing stage and will need some time to acquire the "acumen" to make space vehicles or have biotechnology start-ups grow large enough to invite interest from the public markets, Minister for Science, Space and Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh said at a press conference here on Monday.

"We need a robust, developed private sector. There are some gaps... but that's also because past policy has not favoured the robust development of the private sector. It is only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came that this has started happening. The space sector has opened up to the private sector only four-five years ago and so their capacity building has started only just now. Several projects have been rolled out but we don't have the private sector acumen. This will take time but there is now a shift in the policy," Dr. Singh said.

He was responding to a question on why, despite the government's multiple claims of championing private sector participation in the space sector, no private company was selected to manufacture the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

Jitendra Singh and Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser during a press conference in New Delhi on Monday. R. V. MOORTHY

Many projects have been rolled out but we don't have the private sector acumen, says Minister

Last week, the public sector defence company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) bagged a Transfer of Technology (ToT) deal, valued at ₹511 crore, from the Indian Space Research Organisation to build and operate SSLVs.

Bidding for SSLV

The SSLV is a three-stage vehicle to launch satellites that weigh less than 500 kg into the lower earth orbit (LEO). Apart from the HAL, which had applied independently, two other technically qualified bidders were shortlisted: Alpha Design Technologies Ltd. (ADT), Bengaluru, leading a consortium with Agnikul Cosmos and Walchand Industries Ltd.; and Bharat Dynamics Ltd., Hyderabad, leading a consortium with Skyroot Aerospace, Keltron and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL). ADT is a subsidiary of the Adani conglomerate. Among the three, the HAL emerged as the highest bidder.

'Sign of success'

Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, which oversees the BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) programme that funds biotechnology start-ups since 2012, said that while a start-up listing in the public markets was a sign of success, it was also important to consider market equity.

"The equity of biotechnology start-ups is currently around ₹7,000 crore...they have longer incubation periods," he said in response to a query on when an Indian biotech start-up would hit the public markets.

Dr. Singh was addressing a press conference on the achievements of scientific departments – the Departments of Science and Technology, Biotechnology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Trade unions slam Railways' move to rehire retired staff

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Left trade unions All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) have questioned the Railway Board's recent decision to re-engage retired railway employees on a contract basis as volunteers against the vacant non-gazetted posts. The trade unions urged the Centre on Monday to hold immediate recruitments in the Railways.

The Railway Board issued an order on June 20 empowering Divisional Railway Managers to appoint retired staff as volunteers in non-gazetted posts.

AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said that the Board's decision to appoint retired employees is a matter of serious concern. "The BJP government, which claims to care for the 'youth *sakthi*' of our country, is depriving the jobless youth through such unfair practices," she said adding that more than three lakh posts are lying vacant in the Railways.

CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said that the Railway Board's action is a cruelty against the unemployed youth awaiting recruitment.

SC deprecates 'trend' of accused reneging on bail payment promises

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday objected to a "trend" of accused persons gaining bail by voluntarily offering to pay considerable sums of money, especially in tax evasion and financial fraud cases, as a sign of their *bona fides*, only to later renege on payment to the court.

A Bench of Justices K.V. Viswanathan and N. Kotiswar Singh said these persons would approach the courts again, seeking exemption from making the payment by either claiming the bail condition to be stringent or blaming their lawyers for acting without their authority.

Justice Viswanathan orally observed that the courts had become frequent witnesses to this ploy in recent times.

> We cannot allow parties to play ducks and drakes with the court... We cannot permit parties to take advantage of a device resorted by them to secure orders of release
> **SUPREME COURT**

"We cannot allow parties to play ducks and drakes with the court... We cannot permit parties to take advantage of a device resorted by them to secure orders of release," the Bench noted.

'Onerous and illegal'

"When parties move applications for anticipatory/regular bail, voluntary offers are made by their counsel to deposit substantial amounts to show *bona fide* and secure liberty. Thereafter, a grievance is made before a higher court that the condition imposed for bail was onerous and illegal," Justice Viswanthan observed.

The Bench was hearing the bail plea of a man accused of tax evasion of over ₹13 crore. He was arrested in March 2025. The petitioner, represented by senior advocate V. Chidambresh, had previously secured bail from the Madras High Court by arguing that he had made a part payment of the disputed amount and was willing to pay a further ₹2.5 crore after his release. However, he had failed to pay the promised amount and the High Court had dismissed his bail. He had moved the apex court against the dismissal.

Noting that the top court was "conscious of his rights under Article 21, but was equally conscious of the sanctity of the judicial process", the Bench initially directed the man to surrender before the trial court within a week.

However, the Bench, considering the man's familial responsibilities, recalled the order for his surrender.

SC's three-year Bar experience rule for judge exam triggers concern

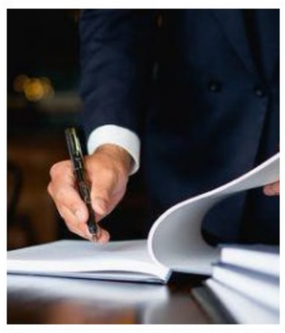
Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's landmark ruling last month reinstating the requirement that candidates must have at least three years of litigation experience before they can sit for the judicial service examination for entry-level judgeships has prompted concerns over the challenges it may pose for recent graduates.

The court's decision was rooted in the belief that judicial officers must have practical exposure to the courtroom before donning the robe.

"The judges from the very day on which they assume office have to deal with the questions of life, liberty, property and reputation of litigants," the apex court said in the May 20 judgment.

It observed, "Neither knowledge derived from books nor pre-service training can be an adequate substitute for the first-hand experience of the working of the court system and the administration of justice. This is possible only when a candidate is exposed to the atmosphere in the court by assisting the seniors and observing how the lawyers and the judges function in the court." The ruling has triggered concerns among law graduates and aspirants. A review petition filed by Chandrasen Yadav, a young advocate enrolled with the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, argues that the mandatory three-year requirement infringes on his fundamental rights.


The review petition argues that the court has overlooked key aspects of the very report it cited — the Shetty Commission.

Mr. Yadav submitted that the mandatory three-year practice rule should be implemented only from 2027 to avoid unjust exclusion of recent graduates (2023-2025) who prepared under the previous eligibility criteria.

"Immediate enforcement causes retrospective hardship, violating principles of fairness, legitimate expectation, and equal opportunity under Article 14 of the Constitution," he said.

Another petitioner, Chandra Sharma, who comes from an Army background, highlighted the requirement to obtain a practice certificate from a lawyer with 10 years of standing.

"Lawyers I have worked with had five or seven years of experience. The new norms will make it more difficult for me to get a certificate," she said.

Robust training

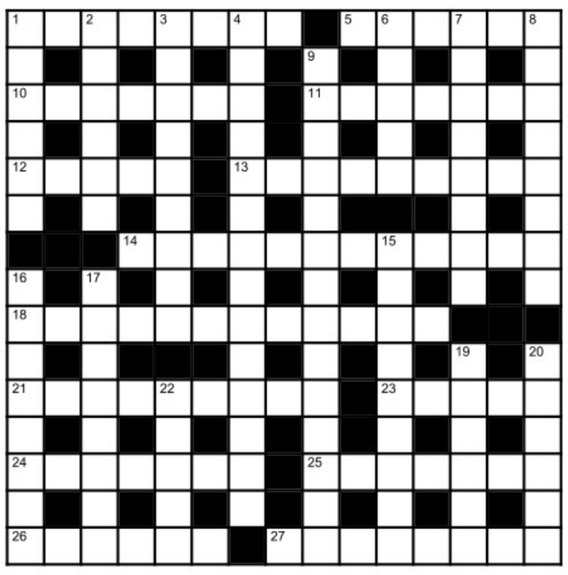
The review petition argues that the apex court has overlooked key aspects of the very report it cited – the Shetty Commission. While the 1999 report had recommended a three-year practice period, it also noted that due to practical court training being integrated into modern legal education, such a requirement may not be necessary if robust training is provided post-selection.

CROSSWORD + 14519

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Rat forcing cat to run (8)
5 Free delivery (6)
10 Little daughter at hospital ward nursed by mother (7)
11 Hypatia's books collected by cool Egyptian architect (7)
12 Enthroned, Middle Eastern, elite ruler principally (5)
13 Irregular sleep delayed husband ultimately snuggling close to you (9)
14 Transfer result about unit in plant's output (7,5)
18 British queens embrace new church avoiding mass exercises (5,7)
21 Strong green tea initially mixed with ice (9)
23 Ibexes breathing hard for oxygen in mountain passes (5)
24 Escalating tension? (7)
25 Cheerful or insecure self-confession (7)
26 Gaining admission in US, a lad soon leaves (6)
27 Indians and Belgians abroad (8)

Down

1 Periodically the PM appears in bad mood (6)
2 Require vacating judge to acquit (6)
3 Bug Spooner's music tutor (9)
4 Direction Bond gives regularly: "A martini isn't stirred" (14)
6 They lit lamps initially in compound (5)
7 Life-size hoarding tackling sex - "Don't do that!" (3,2,3)
8 Speed up former training with fresh diet (8)
9 Choose as e.g., any futile pursuit (4,5,5)
15 Young bird finally catching fish quickly took flight sitting above (9)
16 Sees hint from SEBI over BSE reforms (8)
17 Liberal Government's reliant as a whole (8)
19 Play Game Boy endlessly reaching ultimate level (6)
20 Flowers outlast erstwhile shows (6)
22 Champ's name in part of a crossword (5)

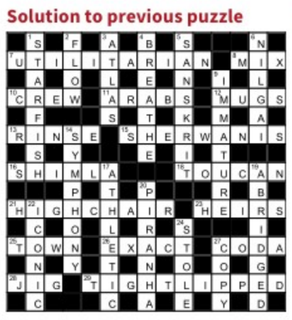
SUDOKU

		8	2					
	9				5	7		
		7			4		6	
							8	5
	2		9		3		7	
1	5							
	6		3			2		
		5	6				1	
					9	3		

No.SS6560 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	2	7	8	9	3	6	1
9	8	3	6	2	1	4	5	7
6	1	7	4	3	5	9	2	8
5	9	4	1	6	3	8	7	2
3	7	6	2	9	8	5	1	4
1	2	8	5	7	4	6	9	3
7	6	9	3	4	2	1	8	5
8	4	5	9	1	7	2	3	6
2	3	1	8	5	6	7	4	9

FAITH

Qualities of a true son

Kesava Vajapeya Swamy said in a discourse that a true son fulfils three conditions. Those who heed their parents' advice while they are alive, who perform rituals for their parents after their death, and who perform at least one ritual at the holy place of Gaya during their lifetime can be considered true sons (*Jeevathore Vakya Karanath, Prathyabdham Bhuri Bhojanath, Gayayam Pinda Danath*). A person should revere and pay obeisance to his parents.

Rama would fall at his father's feet whenever he happened to see him. Dasaratha called Rama on the previous day of his incarnation and advised him to be more steadfast. Though Rama already possessed all the virtuous qualities, he still listened to his father. Rama said his father had performed several yagnas, including Puthrakameshti, to have him as his son. Rama did not hesitate to meet Dasaratha, who called him repeatedly. On being informed of his incarnation by Dasaratha, Rama went to see his Mother first. He had the highest regard and respect for his Mother. Among all charities, providing meals is the most effective (Annadhana). Of various vrathas, Ekadasi vratha is the best. The Gayatri Mantra is considered the highest of all mantras. There is no better God for a person than his Mother. Lalitha Sahasra Namam starts with "Om Sri Maathre Nama:" – My obeisance to the Mother of the universe. She is the embodiment of the love and affection of all mothers in the world. In Vaishnavite temples, the shrine of the Goddess is called "Thaayar Sannadhi" – the Mother's shrine. To achieve success and find peace and happiness in life, a person must show respect and heed the words of his parents.

INBRIEF

Tata Motors unveils Ace Pro mini truck at ₹3.99 lakh

Tata Motors has unveiled the all-new Tata Ace Pro, a mini truck, starting at ₹3.99 lakh. At this price, the Tata Ace Pro is India's most affordable four-wheel mini truck, delivering efficiency, versatility, and value, the company said. The mini truck is available in petrol, bi-fuel (CNG + petrol), and electric variants. Tata Motors said it has collaborated with leading banks and NBFCs to offer financing solutions, including quick loan approvals and flexible EMI options.

Adani commissions India first off-grid green hydrogen plant

Adani Group said it has commissioned India's first off-grid 5 megawatt green hydrogen pilot plant in Kutch, Gujarat. An off-grid green hydrogen plant is a facility that produces hydrogen using electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind, and is not connected to the main electrical grid. The 5 MW plant has been built by Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL), the clean energy unit under Adani Enterprises Ltd. PTI

Zen Tech shares surge on stake buy in TISA Aerospace

Zen Technologies shares hit the upper circuit on Monday after the firm announced it was acquiring a majority stake in emerging defence technology firm TISA Aerospace that specialises in loitering munitions and unmanned aerial vehicles. Zen announced its Board approval for ₹6.56 crore investment towards acquisition of nearly 55% stake and 4 lakh compulsorily convertible debentures. Zen shares ended 5% – upper circuit – at ₹1,995.30 each on the BSE.

Dairy, agriculture impede India-U.S. bilateral trade deal

India is not 'desperate' for a deal as other countries have not signed one with the U.S. either; tariff increase won't hurt India more than others, say sources; govt. cautious on 'sensitive' dairy sector

TCA Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

As the July 9 deadline for the reimposition of the U.S.' reciprocal tariffs approaches, a potential trade deal still remains challenging as an agreement between India and the U.S. on agriculture and dairy remains elusive, according to sources.

"We want to do a deal before July 9, but agriculture and dairy are emerging as challenges," a source which is aware of the developments said.

"These are sensitive sectors, especially dairy, so we want to be very careful."

However, despite the government's keenness to conclude a deal with the U.S. before July 9, it is not "desperate" to do so, they said. "Even if we miss the deadline of July 9, what will happen, tariffs will go back to April 2 levels," the source said.

Milking a chance: Even when it comes to a "mini deal", the Centre is still looking at what can be included and excluded. FILE PHOTO

"So, India will lose in some areas, gain in some, because it is not like U.S. trade deals are happening with other countries. We are the only country that is negotiating so elaborately for a trade deal with U.S." Even when it comes to a "mini deal", the government is still looking into what can be included and what can be excluded.

"But there are challenges to meet the July 9 deadline given there are differences," the source explained. "Our team will go to the U.S. for the next round of in-person meeting to discuss both the mini deal and the first tranche of the Bilateral Trade Deal (BTA), the timeline for which is Fall."

Alert over Iran

On the situation unfolding in Iran, a senior government official separately said that Iran attacking U.S. bases in Syria has turned the situation "more serious" and that the Indian government was increasing its vigilance on the impact this would have on trade.

"There are alternative routes to the Strait of Hormuz, but it will also raise costs as it will increase the time for shipment of goods," the official said.

Hormuz block may benefit Indian refiners

Rishi Ranjan Kala
NEW DELHI

Any disruption to shipping of jet fuel and diesel (gasoil) to Europe via the Strait of Hormuz offers a window of opportunity to India's refiners, particularly for aviation turbine fuel.

Global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler pointed out that only a fraction (44,000 barrels per day) of India's refined exports passes through the Strait. In this context, any disruption along the regional redistribution hubs such as the UAE and Singapore will open up opportunities for India's refiners to explore lucrative deals.

"For instance, disruption in these routes affects supply of jet fuel to Europe. European markets are likely to offer better prices to Indian refiners in such circumstances," said an analyst.

Sumit Ritolia, Kpler's Lead Research Analyst for Refining and Modeling, emphasised that India is positioned as a "net exporter with strategic exposure". He said that the deepening Iran-Israel conflict has sharply altered the refined products landscape.

Over the past week, global gasoil cracks have surged, signalling tighter middle distillate balances.

Structural risks are emerging, particularly for Northwest Europe (NWE), which sources about 24% of its gasoil imports from Middle East Gulf (MEG), exposing the region to potential Hormuz Strait disruptions, he explained.

However, the real bottleneck is in jet fuel and kerosene logistics, he said adding that a disruption in the Strait would disproportionately affect European aviation fuel logistics with limited backup capacity.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

No headway in India-ASEAN trade deal review despite 9 meetings in last one year

TCA Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Over the last one year, officials of the government of India have held nine meetings with officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to review the trade agreement signed with the grouping, but no progress has been made on any item, according to sources.

"After a lot of pressure from the government of India, they agreed for a review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)," a source said.

Under the original agreement, signed in 2009, India opened 71% of its tariff lines to the ASEAN countries whereas countries like Indonesia opened 41%, Vietnam 66.5%, and Thailand 67%, the source explained.

'Imports tripled'

"In the last 15 years, our exports to ASEAN have doubled, but our imports have tripled," they said. "These factors necessitated a review of the deal but we are being stonewalled."

The review by a joint committee began in February 2024.

India had found through its investigations that there are countries in the ASEAN grouping that were receiving highly subsidised raw materials from China, processing them, and then exporting them to India, the source said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,897	-0.62
US Dollar	86.78	-0.26
Gold	99,800	-0.16
Brent oil	77.01	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2472.00	23.60
Adani Ports	1354.80	5.50
Apollo Hosp	7007.50	-56.00
Asian Paints	2264.10	-21.60
Axis Bank	1214.10	-6.60
Bajaj Auto	8286.50	-84.50
Bajaj Finserv	1997.60	11.40
Bajaj Finance	915.50	10.50
Bharat Elec	420.90	12.65
Bharti Airtel	1936.30	-0.40
Cipla	1499.10	-0.60
Coal India	392.50	3.45
Dr Reddys Lab	1317.90	-7.40
Eicher Motors	5552.50	27.50
Eternal Ltd.	254.64	1.31
Grasim Ind	2723.70	11.10
HCL Tech	1703.20	-36.70
HDFC Bank	1948.40	-16.30
HDFC Life	774.15	-4.80
Hero MotoCorp	4253.10	-85.40
Hindalco	661.40	12.25
Hind Unilever	2275.10	-31.10
ICICI Bank	1420.10	-7.00
IndusInd Bank	839.90	-0.35
Infosys	1584.00	-38.90
ITC	413.90	-4.65
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	293.15	-1.10
JSW Steel	997.00	-8.55
Kotak Bank	2184.10	14.30
L&T	3583.70	-78.30
M&M	3135.00	-49.40
Maruti Suzuki	12699.00	-92.00
NestleIndia	2359.10	-1.30
NTPC	332.60	-2.60
ONGC	251.38	-0.51
PowerGrid Corp	290.25	-2.85
Reliance Ind	1456.80	-9.40
SBI Life	1818.60	7.70
State Bank	790.20	-5.95
Shriram Finance Ltd.	661.65	-4.70
Sun Pharma	1662.50	-2.60
TataConsumerProduct	1109.40	9.20
Tata Motors	671.25	-4.95
Tata Steel	152.43	0.46
TCS	3393.60	-42.10
Tech Mahindra	1681.80	-14.30
Titan	3505.70	-13.30
Trent Ltd.	6120.00	222.50
UltraTech Cement	11449.00	-9.00
Wipro	263.24	-3.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.55	86.87
Euro	99.21	99.57
British Pound	115.78	116.21
Japanese Yen (100)	58.55	58.77
Chinese Yuan	12.04	12.09
Swiss Franc	105.72	106.11
Singapore Dollar	66.92	67.18
Canadian Dollar	62.75	63.00
Malaysian Ringitt	20.14	20.24
Australian Dollar	55.18	55.39

Source:Indian Bank

Malabar Gold eyes ₹5,000 cr. plan for global expansion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Global jewellery retailer Malabar Gold & Diamonds, said it planned to invest ₹5,000 crore to drive future business growth.

The jewellery brand said it was targeting a revenue of ₹78,000 crore during the current financial year, up from ₹63,000 crore last year and accordingly ramping up presence by opening 60 additional showrooms in 15 geographies including India.

"We have a comprehensive business strategy in place targeting expanding with 60 new showrooms and manufacturing units, aiming at a turnover of ₹78,000 crore in the current financial year, and committing an investment of over ₹5,000 crore to drive future growth," said M. P. Ahammed, chairman, Malabar Group.

New horizons: The brand, with presence in 13 countries, will foray into New Zealand and Ireland in the current financial year .

Biggest market

Asher O, MD - India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, said, India was the brand's biggest market and opportunity, and it has plans to continue the growth momentum.

"We will be strengthening presence in existing and new States and Union territories, reaching 22 States and three Union Territories by the end of this financial year," he added.

The brand already has presence in 13 countries and will foray into New Zealand and Ireland in the current financial year, said Shamlal Ahamed, MD-India Operations.

'Economic activity at 14-month high in June'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

An index measuring India's combined manufacturing and services performance rose to a 14-month high in June, driven by strong export demand.

The HSBC Flash India Composite Output Index rose to 61 in June from 59.3 in May. A reading above 50 indicates an expansion, and one below 50 denotes a contraction.

"The latest reading was consistent with sharp rate of expansion that was well above the long-run series average," the report said. "Notably, the upturn in export orders was the strongest since comparable data became available in September 2014," it read.

'Banks must raise more deposits to improve LDR ratio'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Sectoral loan growth was at a 4-year low of 10% as lending to non-banking finance institutions reduced

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s 50 basis point rate cut may restore loan growth to 12%-13% however this may need a higher deposit ratio in the banking system in FY26, ratings agency Fitch said.

Loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) rose 120 basis points in FY25. To maintain the pace of this growth, banks have to keep mobilising deposits equal to or more than the loan growth, Fitch said in a commentary.

Sectoral loan growth was at a 4-year low of 10% as lending to non-banking finance institutions reduced. Public sector banks lent at a faster rate of 12.4% than private sector banks.

Net Interest Margin reduced 20 bps while lower credit costs, recovery from bad loans and treasury gains "preserved earnings" in FY2025.

BluPine Energy secures ₹2,416-crore debt for FDRE unit

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Finance will be used for 150 MW Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy Project in Karnataka

BluPine Energy on Monday said it has secured ₹2,416 crore debt financing for its 150 MW Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy (FDRE) Power Project in Aland, Karnataka.

The project, undertaken by its wholly-owned subsidiary Solarcraft Power India 16 Pvt. Ltd., is being developed under the SJVN 1,500 MW FDRE tender dated June 20, 2023, a company statement said.

Sanjeev Bhatia, chief financial officer, BluPine Energy, said, "This financial assistance facilitates us in building the need-of-hour FDRE projects – a mix of solar, wind, and battery energy storage assets, which helps in overcoming intermittency of renewable energy sources and providing critical support to DISCOMs during peak demand hours."

MSME Technology Development Centre
Process & Product Development Centre, Agra
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre Thiruvalla Organizes
Webinar on
EV Technology & Public Charging Stations
Dates: 30th June & 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th July 2025
Timing :- 7 pm to 9 pm
Course Content : *1: Overview of EV Technology & Market Trends 2: Types & Technologies of Charging Stations 3: Components ,Safety & Communication Protocols 4: Setup Process, Government Regulations & Licensing 5: Business Models ,Operations & Case Studies.*
Course Fees: 3540(Inclusive of GST)
Contact Number 9944971623,8129988725.
Scan QR for Online Registration.
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

OFFICE OF THE ADDL.CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK
क्रमांक:– कैशियर/25–26/डी– 989–998 दिनांक : 09.06.2025
Notice Inviting Bid
08/2025-26
Bids for **Nit No 08/2025-26, 03 Nos. Road Work** are invited from interested bidders upto **Date 01-07-2025, 06.00 P.M.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state. and – departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 4748.48 Lacs**
NIB code PWD2526A1214
UBN is: PWD2526WLOB04169
UBN is: PWD2526WLOB04171
UBN is: PWD2526WLOB04173
(Premraj Meena)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD, Zone Tonk
DIPR/C/7977/2025

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Vidyut Nilayam, Corporate Office, ITI College Road, Vijayawada-520008.
Tender Notice No: CGM/PROJ/VJA/T&D WORKS/SIP-02/2025-26
Bids through **apeprocurement.gov.in** are invited from eligible bidders for "System Improvement Project for Survey, Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning erection of Seven number new 33/11KV Outdoor Sub-Stations at Kopperam, Mallayapalem in Addanki Division, I.T.Varam (Gandibhavi Chenchugudem) in Markapur Division, Kalluru, Eluru in Darsi Division, Mannetikota in Kandukur Division and Housing Board Colony in Ongole Division in Bapatla and Ongole Circles of APCPDCL under T&D improvements on turnkey basis. The Tender information will be made available in AP e-procurement Portal from **21.06.2025, 18:00 Hrs.,** Last date for Bid submission online is **08.07.2025, 16:00 Hrs.**
Sd/- Chief General Manager/Projects,
APCPDCL :: Vijayawada
Email: cgmproj.cpdcl@apcpdcl.in
DIPR 4210PP/CL, Dt: 23-06-2025

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
No.CE/PRD/ACCTS-16/24/233, dtd.: 18.06.2025
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work : **Providing Concrete Road along MCHP pond including construction of drain near MCHP workshop of Paradip Port.**
Estimated Cost : **Rs.2,21,62,724.02.**
Last Date & time of submission : **08.07.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs.**
Refer our website for details : **eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Executive Engineer, PRD, PPA
PPA/PR/19/2025-2026, dt.20/06/2025

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
ADMISSION NOTICE NO: 06/2025
The PGIMER, Chandigarh invite the online applications for **B.Sc. Paramedical & Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) Courses** for the September 2025 session through Computer Based Test (CBT) to be held **04.08.2025** various cities across the country. The application form Live dates are from **25.06.2025 to 16.07.2025** as per detail given below:
For eligibility criteria, number of seats and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectus and instructions given there in carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e. **www.pgimer.edu.in**. The candidates are requested to visit the PGIMER website regularly for all subsequent changes/ updation for entrance examination/ communications/ addendum/ corrigendum.
PGI/RC/Advt./25/HR-000292 REGISTRAR

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E mail :- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 07
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 03/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 28.07.2025. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.
UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07189
NIB Code: PHE2425A3388
(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan
DIPR/C/7961/2025

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 07
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 04/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 28.07.2025. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.
UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07192
NIB Code: PHE2425A3390
(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan
DIPR/C/7967/2025

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NBCC Tower, 5th Floor, 15 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066
Tel.Ph: 011- 26712583 Website:https://nstfdc.tribal.gov.in
Tender Notice
NSTFDC invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **hiring Implementing Agency for Establishment of Space Labs in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Pan India for NSTFDC under CSR funding.** Details are as under:
Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app**. Last date of submission of bid is **10th July 2025** upto **5.30 pm**.
Sd/-
(Bismita Das)
Chief Manager (Projects & CSR)
NSTFDC

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
ई–निविदा सूचना सं./ e- Tender Notice No: PT-E-25-008,009 तिथि/ Date. 20/06/2025
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **1."एसडीएससी शार, एसएलपी के एलओएफएस सुविधा (एएसएलपी परियोजना) हेतु बाह्य विद्युतीकरण उपलब्ध कराना" (अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 165.99 लाख) 2. "एसडीएससी शार में पी–4 रेडार के पास प्रस्तावित एक्स–बैंड डॉपलर मौसम रेडार (डीडब्ल्यूआर) के लिए विद्युत कार्य" (अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 24.42 लाख)** के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **07/07/2025** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जा सकते हैं।
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **1."Providing external electrifications for LOFS Facility (ASLP Project), SLP SDSC SHAR (Electrical works)" (Estimated cost: ₹ 165.99 Lakhs) 2. "Electrical works for the proposed X- Band Doppler Weather Rader (DWR) near P-4 RADAR at SDSC SHAR" (Estimated cost: ₹24.42 Lakhs)**; Tender documents can be downloaded up to **07/07/2025**, **14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

PARIS

Son of ousted Shah warns against 'throwing lifeline' to Iran leaders

AP

Europe and the U.S. should not give a lifeline to Iran's leadership under Ayatollah Ali Khamenei through talks, the son of Iran's ousted Shah said. "This regime is collapsing... You can facilitate that by standing this time with them (the Iranian people)," Reza Pahlavi, formerly crown prince and now a key opposition figure, said. AFP

LONDON

U.K. police ban protest by Palestine Action group outside parliament

AFP

The British police banned campaign group Palestine Action from protesting outside parliament on Monday, a rare move that comes after two of its members broke into a military base last week. The group said in response that it had changed the location of its protest on Monday to Trafalgar Square. REUTERS

DAMASCUS

Syria President vows to bring to justice culprits of church attack

GETTY IMAGES

Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa vowed that those involved in a "heinous" suicide attack on a Damascus church would face justice, as he called for unity in the diverse, multi-faith country. The shooting and suicide bombing on Sunday at the church in Dwelaa of the Syrian capital killed 25 people and wounded 63. AFP

KYIV

At least 14 killed in Russian strikes as Zelenskyy meets Starmer in U.K.

AFP

Russian drones and missiles killed at least 14 civilians and injured several dozen others in Ukraine in overnight attacks on Monday, with nine deaths reported in Kyiv. The attacks came as Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy began a visit to the U.K, where he met with King Charles III and Prime Minister Keir Starmer. AP

Israel strikes Iran Guards sites, Evin prison in Tehran and Fordo facility

Israel attacks 'regime targets' with 'unprecedented force', adding to speculation that it may seek to topple Iran's clerical leadership; Putin, after meeting Araghchi, slams the strikes by U.S. and Israel on Iran but does not offer concrete support

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Israel hit Revolutionary Guard sites and the notorious Evin prison in Tehran on Monday, calling them its most powerful strikes yet on the Iranian capital on the 11th day of the war.

Iran, in turn, fired missile barrages at Israel on the same day.

Loud explosions rocked the Iranian capital, where Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military hit "regime targets" with "unprecedented force", adding to speculation that Israel may seek to topple Iran's clerical leadership.

Escalating situation: A plume of smoke billowing following Israeli strikes in Iran's capital of Tehran on Monday. AFP

The targets included Evin prison, which Mr. Katz said "holds political prisoners and regime opponents", as well as command centres of the domestic Basij militia and the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Islamic Republic.

Iranian media and the Israeli military said Israel also struck Fordo, a key nuclear enrichment facility buried deep in the mountains south of Tehran.

The military said it had struck Fordo on Monday "in order to obstruct access routes" to the site, which Israel's ally the United States hit the previous day with "bunker buster" bombs.

President Donald Trump boasted Sunday's U.S. strikes had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear capabilities, but other officials said it was too soon to assess the impact on Iran's nuclear programme, which Israel and some Western states consider an existential threat.

Power outage

Sirens sounded across Israel on Monday blasts were heard over Jerusalem.

Iranian media said Israel's strikes hit a power supply system in Tehran, triggering temporary outages.

In Israel, the national electricity company reported "damage near a strategic infrastructure facility" in the south that disrupted power supply, without naming the location or specifying the cause.

Some details of the damage in Israel are barred from publication due to military censorship rules.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday slammed attacks on Iran as "unprovoked" and "unjustified" in a meeting with Tehran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, but did not announce any concrete support to his key ally in West Asia.

Iran's parliament takes up Bill to end ties with IAEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The parliament of Iran started discussing a Bill that would pave the way for suspending Tehran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) announced on Monday.

The announcement was welcomed by the members of the Majlis even as the IAEA convened an emergency meeting of its Board of Governors in Vienna where Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said the global nuclear watchdog is ready to bring this military conflict "to an end".

"In accordance with the religious decree of the Supreme Leader, Iran has no plans for non-peaceful activities. However the world clearly saw the Atomic Energy Agency has not fulfilled any of its obligations and has become a political tool," Speaker Qalibaf said.

In the spotlight: IAEA chief Rafael Grossi arrives for a meeting of the Board of Governors in Vienna on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

In his remarks at the IAEA's Board of Governors Meeting in Vienna, Mr. Grossi cautioned against "nuclear accident" and said, "We are in the midst of a serious conflict. But there is still a path for diplomacy. We must take it, or the global non-proliferation regime could crumble and fall."

"There is a common denominator: we do not want to see a nuclear accident; we do not want to see more nuclear weapon states in the world. The IAEA is ready to play its part to bring this military confrontation to an end," Mr. Grossi said.

'Culture of impunity continues in Bangladesh'

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

A Bangladesh government-appointed commission investigating hundreds of disappearances by the security forces under ousted premier Sheikh Hasina on Monday warned that the same "culture of impunity" continues. The commission was established by interim leader Muhammad Yunus.

"Enforced disappearances in Bangladesh were the result of a politicised institutional machinery," the commission said, in a report released by the interim government on Monday. "Alarmingly, the culture of impunity continues even after the regime change on August 5, 2024".

Bangladesh's former poll panel chief held for 'rigging elections'

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Earlier in the day, the 77-year-old was assaulted by a mob outside his Uttara residence

Bangladesh's former chief election commissioner K.M. Nurul Huda has been arrested on charges of manipulating elections during his tenure, police said.

Dhaka metropolitan police's Deputy Commissioner on Sunday said Mr. Huda was arrested in the case filed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) against the former election commission chief and 18 others, including deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

'First of its kind'

Election Commission officials said this was probably the first time that a former CEC has been detained over issues related to elections, the *Daily Star* newspaper reported.

Earlier in the day, the 77-year-old, who oversaw the elections in 2014, 2018 and 2024, was assaulted by a mob outside his Uttara residence.

Uttara West police station chief Hafizur Rahman said, "We went to the scene after being informed" that a mob has surrounded Huda. We have brought him into our custody."

After Nobel nomination, Pakistan slams Trump

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan condemned U.S. President Donald Trump for bombing Iran, less than 24 hours after saying he deserved a Nobel Peace Prize for defusing a recent crisis with India.

Pakistan said the strikes "constituted a serious violation of international law" and the statute of the IAEA.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a phone call on Sunday with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, expressed his concern that the bombings had targeted facilities under the safeguards of the IAEA. Pakistan has close ties with Iran and supports its attacks on Israel.

U.S. to screen social media accounts of non-immigrant visa applicants

The Hindu Bureau

Just days after the United States announced that foreign students applying for a visa must unlock their social media accounts for government review, the U.S. government has extended this condition to all individuals applying for an F, M, or J non-immigrant visa.

In a social media post, the U.S. Embassy in India, said that "every visa adjudication is a national security decision", while adding that the applicants will have to "adjust the privacy settings on all of their personal social media accounts to 'public' to facilitate vetting necessary to establish their identity and admissibility to the United States."

The U.S. has said that the overseas posts will resume scheduling F, M, and J non-immigrant visa applications soon. ISTOCK

Noting that the United States has required visa applicants to provide social media identifiers on immigrant and non-immigrant visa application forms since 2019, it added that all available information will be used in the visa screening and vetting "to identify visa applicants who are inadmissible to the United States, including those who pose a threat to U.S. national security".

With regards to the information regarding visa scheduling, the U.S. State Department in a June 18, 2025 statement said that the overseas posts will resume scheduling F, M, and J non-immigrant visa applications soon. Applicants should check the relevant embassy or consulate website for appointment availability.

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MAKING IT A HABIT

Rahul has most centuries by an Indian opener in England

AFP

K.L. Rahul became the first Indian opener to score three Test hundreds in England during the series opener in Leeds on Monday. Rahul overtook four other Indian openers — Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Merchant, Rahul Dravid and Ravi Shastri — who had made two centuries in England.

PIONEER

Pant first Indian to slam a ton in both innings of a Test in England

GETTY IMAGES

Rishabh Pant is the first Indian to score a ton in both innings of a Test in England. He became the seventh Indian after Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane to score two tons in a Test. Pant is the second wicketkeeper after Andy Flower to reach three figures in both visits to the crease.

DAZZLING SHOW

Rahul and Pant take centrestage on day four of Headingley Test

AFP

K.L. Rahul crossed the three-figure mark for the third time in the Old Blighty (149, The Oval, 2018; 129, Lord's, 2021; 137, Leeds, 2025) while Rishabh Pant made it four in England (114, The Oval, 2018; 146, Edgbaston, 2022; 134 & 118, Leeds, 2025). Rahul and Pant forged a 195-run alliance for the fourth wicket in the second innings.

SAFE HANDS

Root equals Dravid's record for most catches by a fielder in Tests

AP

England's Joe Root equalled Rahul Dravid's record for most catches by a non-wicketkeeper in Tests (210 catches) on the fourth day of the opening Test against India. Root caught Shardul Thakur at first slip off Josh Tongue to go level with with Dravid. They are followed by Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene (205) and Steve Smith (200).

Rahul, Pant set up intriguing final day

England strikes back after the duo's 195-run stand; the wicketkeeper-batter joins six other Indians in scoring a second ton in a Test; the hosts reach 21 for no loss at stumps in pursuit of 371; Leeds is the only ground where targets of 350 or more have been chased successfully twice

INDIA IN ENGLAND

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

When Rishabh Pant bats, it feels like he is capturing the thrill of life. He is endlessly fascinating, mostly exhilarating, occasionally staid and never boring.

Yet, for all the razzmatazz he brings, his presence in the middle is uniquely comforting. No Indian batter in recent times has played as many match-turning knocks as Pant in Test whites.

Day four of the opening Test against England at Headingley provided another opportunity for the dashing batter to showcase his worth.

The southpaw did not disappoint, scoring his second ton of the match (118, 140b, 15x4, 3x6) to join a select band of six other Indians to have achieved the feat (Vijay Hazare, Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma).

With Rahul (137, 247b, 18x4) – whose style and methods are in direct aesthetic confrontation to Pant's but no less effective – he combined for 195 first-rate, fourth-wicket runs (in 280 balls).

The partnership helped India leave England with a 371-run target to chase. The hosts reached 21 for no loss at stumps, setting up a mouth-watering last day even as the threat of rain looms large. Curiously, Leeds is the only ground in the world where targets of 350 or more have been chased successfully twice.

Contrasting efforts: The rock-solid Rahul and the dashing Pant ensured that India did not crumble in the second essay. GETTY IMAGES

Shubman Gill had fallen off the seventh ball of the morning, and under typical English bowling conditions, Pant, alongside overnight batter Rahul, had to ensure that India did not crumble in the second essay and allow England a solid hold. The duo managed that superbly.

Pant started in familiar fashion. He tried to hoick Chris Woakes the second ball he faced, but the cherry flew over the slip cordon. His next two boundaries were also streaky.

An attempted falling ramp shot over short-fine nearly cost him, but the ball hit the bat before thudding on to his pads. But he soon buckled down, perhaps influenced by Rahul's stoic, but towering, demeanour.

As Brydon Carse bowled a menacing line, Rahul conducted a batting clinic. He left the ball outside off supremely well and played those coming in with the softest of hands. The drop by Harry Brook at gully on 58 off Josh Tongue was the one jarring note, but Rahul was unaffected. In the first two hours, he added 25 runs but by consuming 82 balls, he had thwarted England's advance.

After the break, as Pant gave himself the license to break free, Rahul played the ideal foil. While Pant cut Tongue for four, caned offie Shoaib Bashir for two sixes in an over and pulled Carse in front of square, Rahul was unflappable, attacking only the bad balls.

A steer to the third-man fence took Rahul to 97 and soon he completed his ninth century - seventh outside the subcontinent – with a hard-run double. Nearly seven overs passed with Pant in the 90s – an inordinately long time by his standards – but he too soon tasted ecstasy with a quick single to point.

Before Pant was out caught at long-on off Bashir, he smashed Joe Root for two fours and a six. A symbolic knock-out punch? Time will tell.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
471 in 113 overs.
ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
465 in 100.4 overs.
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Smith b Carse 4 *(11b, 1x4)*, K.L. Rahul b Carse 137 *(247b, 18x4)*, B. Sai Sudharsan c Crawley b Stokes 30 *(48b, 4x4)*, Shubman Gill b Carse 8 *(16b, 1x4)*, Rishabh Pant c Crawley b Bashir 118 *(140b, 15x4, 3x6)*, Karun Nair c & b Woakes 20 *(54b, 3x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 25 *(40b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shardul Thakur c Root b Tongue 4 *(12b)*, Mohammed Siraj c Smith b Tongue 0 *(1b)*, Jasprit Bumrah b Tongue 0 *(2b)*, Prasidh Krishna c Tongue b Bashir 0 *(11b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-4, nb-6, w-3): 18; Total (in 96 overs): 364.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Jaiswal, 3.1 overs), 2-82 (Sai Sudharsan, 20.5), 3-92 (Gill, 24.6), 4-287 (Pant, 71.4), 5-333 (Rahul, 84.2), 6-335 (Karun, 85.6), 7-349 (Shardul, 90.1), 8-349 (Siraj, 90.2), 9-349 (Bumrah, 90.4).
ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 19-4-45-1, Carse 19-2-80-3, Tongue 18-2-72-3, Bashir 22-1-90-2, Stokes 15-2-47-1, Root 3-0-21-0.
ENGLAND — 2ND INNINGS
Target: 371
Zak Crawley (batting) 12 *(25b, 2x4)*, Ben Duckett (batting) 9 *(11b)*; Total (for no loss in six overs): 21.
INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 3-0-9-0, Siraj 2-1-9-0, Jadeja 1-0-3-0.

Wizard: Doshi picked up 114 wickets in 33 Tests. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Former India spinner Dilip Doshi passes away

Sports Bureau

Former India cricketer Dilip Doshi passed away at the age of 77 due to cardiac arrest in London on Monday. Doshi, a left-arm spinner with classical action, represented India in 33 Tests and 15 ODIs from 1979 to 1983. He picked up 114 wickets in Tests and 22 scalps in the limited-overs format.

Doshi made his international debut during the first Test of Australia's tour of India (1979) in Chennai. Doshi is one of only nine Indian men to claim a five-for on Test debut.

He played First Class cricket for Saurashtra and Bengal in India. He represented Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire in County Cricket. He took 898 wickets in First Class cricket. "The BCCI mourns the sad demise of former India spinner, Dilip Doshi, who has unfortunately passed away in London. May his soul rest in peace," the Board of Control for Cricket in India posted on X.

Doshi's career in numbers

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Avg	SR	5WI
Tests	33	55	114	6/102	30.71	81.7	6
ODIs	15	15	22	4/30	23.81	36.0	0

I've enjoyed the opener's role: Rahul

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

In the last 18 months, K.L. Rahul has batted at four different positions in Tests. Perhaps, being an immensely talented batter in a line-up filled with legends and stalwarts has this outcome, for that is probably the only way to shoe-horn you in.

But Rahul is at his best as an opener, a position where eight of his nine centuries have come, including the 137 (247b, 18x4) against England at Headingley on Monday.

"In the last couple of years, I have forgotten what my position is," Rahul said after the day's play. "But I am happy to be given the responsibility [of batting at different positions]. It makes the game exciting and I can challenge myself.

"The last couple of series, I have opened and I have enjoyed that. All of my early years I have been an opener and I am happy to be back."

Ideal slot: Eight of Rahul's nine Test hundreds have come at the top of the order. ANI

In the 2024-25 Australia tour, the 33-year-old got five decent starts across 10 innings, but couldn't score big. The second-innings century in Leeds, after the 42 in the first essay, would have come as a relief.

"I was happy with the way I was batting in Australia but unhappy that I couldn't convert. But that's how the game goes. I learnt and made sure that once I get a start, I make it count."

Rahul said that he was also enjoying the role of being the seniormost batter in the current set-up.

"Even with Virat [Kohli] and Rohit [Sharma], there was a culture where everyone helped each other. I have been in those situations myself where I have spoke to Virat ahead of series in England and Australia.

"So the atmosphere in the dressing room is relaxing. And there are conversations like what to expect in Leeds, Lord's... and we try and use that information."

Looking ahead to Tuesday, Rahul stated that he would have been happier with "40 to 50 runs more" but expressed hope that 370 runs will be enough.

"There is definitely a result. England have said that openly. That gives us the opportunity to take wickets. It is a tricky pitch. I didn't feel set at all while batting. It has taken a beating and it may break even more".

Dhinidhi and Shoan bag top honours in National aquatics

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Teenage Olympian Dhinidhi Desinghu and her Karnataka State-mate Shoan Ganguly secured women's 200m freestyle and men's 200m medley crowns respectively with 'India best' times in the National aquatics championships at the Kalinga Stadium Aquatic Centre here on Monday.

Dhinidhi, who had a disappointing outing on Sunday, fought back to better her two-year-old meet record by clocking 2:02.97. The World championships 'B' qualification mark is 2:02.37. The 15-year-old surged ahead after the first 50m to win comfortably.

Shoan, who had timed a below-par 2:09 in the State meet a month ago, trained hard under his father-cum-coach Surajit Ganguly's guidance to record 2:04.34.

M.S. Yadesh Babu achieved his personal best of 28.35 for the men's 50m breaststroke title.

Grit: Dhinidhi rallied to beat her own record. BISWARANJAN ROUT

In 4x100m mixed freestyle relay, Karnataka - comprising Rujula S., Latisha Mandaana, Akash Mani, Tanish George Mathew - took the yellow metal with a new meet record (3:41.18).

Tamil Nadu claimed the silver after Maharashtra was disqualified. TN, consisting of Pramiti Gnanasekaran, Yadesh, B. Benedicton Rohit, Deeksha Sivakumar, won the top honour in 4x100m mixed medley relay with a meet record.

The results (winners only):
Men: 50m freestyle: Jashua Thomas (TN) 23.06; **1500m freestyle:** Kushagra Rawat (Del) 15:32.95; **50m breaststroke:** M.S. Yadesh Babu (TN) 28.35; **200m medley:** Shoan Ganguly (Kar) 2:04.34 (NMR, Old 2:05.64, Siva S., 2022).
Women: 200m freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar) 2:02.97 (NMR, Old, 2:04.24, Dinidhi, 2023); **50m breaststroke:** Mittapalli Rithvika (Tel) 33.98; **200m medley:** Saanvi Deshwal (Mah) 2:21.87; **4x100m mixed freestyle relay:** Karnataka 3:41.18 (NMR, Old 3:42.92); **4x100m mixed medley relay:** Tamil Nadu 4:03.44 (NMR, Old 4:05.30).

Coventry receives the IOC key from Bach. REUTERS

Coventry takes over as first woman IOC president

Reuters
LAUSANNE

The new International Olympic Committee president, Kirsty Coventry, pledged to strengthen and extend the reach of the Games, as Zimbabwe's Olympic swimming champion took over from Thomas Bach in a ceremony on Monday.

Coventry became the first woman and the first African to be elected head of the Olympic ruling body in March.

She was handed the golden key to the IOC by Bach.

INBRIEF

Formula 1 rookie Antonelli passes the test at school

Formula 1 rookie Kimi Antonelli passed his final exams to graduate from high school back home in Italy just like he's been passing other cars on tracks around the world: without trouble. After claiming his first podium with a third-place finish at the Canadian GP, the 18-year-old returned home to Casalecchio di Reno, near Bologna, to take his exams.

India tops the medals table in Seychelles boxing tournament

Indians bagged seven medals, including three gold, to finish on top of the standings at the Seychelles National Day boxing tournament at Mahe. India also clinched three silver and one bronze, finishing one medal ahead of Mauritius in the overall tally. Himanshu Sharma (50kg) secured gold via walkover while Ashish Mudshaniya (55kg) registered a 4-1 split decision win in his final. In the 90+kg summit clash, Gaurav Chauhan eked out a 3-2 victory and for India's third gold. The silvers came through Anmol (60kg), Aditya Yadav (65kg), and Neeraj (75kg), all of whom lost their respective finals by identical 2-3 split decisions. Kartik Dalal won bronze in the 70kg category.

Indian u-17 Greco-Roman wrestlers bag four medals

Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers bagged four medals, including a gold, at the Asian under-17 championships in Vung Tau, Vietnam, on Monday. Hardeep (110kg) secured the gold, while Aditya Jadhav (48kg) won a silver. Ritesh (60kg) and Nitin (92kg) claimed bronze medals.

Ujjawal, Yuvaraj lead spate of records in Jr. Federation Cup

Ujjawal Choudhary with a throw of 59.51m improve his own National junior record to take the discus gold on the second day of the 23rd National junior Federation Cup athletics championships in Prayagraj on Monday. Also setting a new junior National record was S. Yuvaraj of Tamil Nadu, who took the top spot in the 110m hurdles in 13.69s on a day that saw several records being bettered both at the National and meet levels. In fact, all three medalists in the event bettered the previous mark of 13.74 seconds set by Tejas Shirse in 2021. Nitin Gupta set a new National mark in the 10km walk (39:46.78) while Astik Pradhan set a new meet record in the 400m and Shahnavaz Khan jumped to 1.81m in long jump.

The results (winners only): Men: 110mH: Yuvaraj S (TN, 13.69s); **400m:** Astik Pradhan (Odi, 46.58s); **1500m:** Vivek Pal (Jha, 3:51.83); **10km walk:** Nitin Gupta (UP, 39:46.78); **Long jump:** Shahnavaz Khan (UP, 7.90m); **hammer throw:** Harshit Kumar (UP, 60.69m); **discus:** Ujjawal Choudhary (JSW, 59.51m); **decathlon:** Jinoy Jayan (NCOE Tvm, 6451 pts.). **Women: 100mH:** Aerrolla Pranathi (Tel, 14.42s); **400m:** Isha Jadhav (Mah, 54.02s); **1500m:** Prateeksha Yadav (UP, 4:30.20); **10km walk:** Payal (Har, 50:39.88); **long jump:** Pavana Nagaraj (Kar, 6.29m); **high jump:** Reet Rathor (UP, 1.81m); **shot put:** Dona Maria Dony (Ker, 14.83m); **pole vault:** Vanshika Ghanghas (NCOE Blr, 3.90m).

Suns trade star forward Durant to Rockets

Two-time NBA champion forward Kevin Durant has been traded from the Phoenix Suns to the Houston Rockets for eight players in a blockbuster deal he confirmed on Sunday.

Empire routs East West to make the last eight

Empire FC overcame East West FC 5-0, earning a spot in the quarterfinals of the BDFA 'C' division football league in Bengaluru.

The results: BDFA 'C' division: Pre-quarterfinals: Universal FC bt Hampi Nagar FC 0-0 (via 5-4 on penalties); Jai Bharath Nagar FC bt Bangalore Wanderers FC 2-0; Empire FC bt East West FC 5-0.
KSFA 'C' division league: Samurai FC bt Silicans FC 2-0; United Aces FC bt TAL FC 3-0; BM FC bt Blue Star FC 3-1; Mysore Vijayanagara FC bt Universal FC 3-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 6.30 a.m. (Tuesday); 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
England vs India: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 1, 5 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

Thunder prevail over Pacers for maiden title

Gilgeous-Alexander, voted the Finals MVP, leads from the front as the home side's defence proves too much for an Indiana team that loses the talismanic Haliburton early to a leg injury

NBA

Agence France-Presse
OKLAHOMA CITY

Joyous bunch: Gilgeous-Alexander, centre, and teammates celebrate the historic triumph. AP

Oklahoma City Thunder crowned a dazzling season with a title on Sunday, pulling away relentlessly in the second half to beat an injury-hit Indiana Pacers 103-91 in game seven of the NBA Finals.

Thunder, who led the league with 68 regular-season wins, captured their first title since the club's controversial move to Oklahoma City in 2008, the franchise having won it all in 1979 as the Seattle SuperSonics.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 29 points and handed out 12 assists and the Thunder's swarming defence finally proved to much for a Pacers team that lost talisman Tyrese Haliburton to a leg injury just seven minutes into the contest.

Gilgeous-Alexander put himself among some of the game's greats as he earned Finals Most Valuable Player honours to go with his regular-season MVP and scoring title along with his first championship.

The underdog Pacers hung tough and held a 48-47 lead at halftime, but Thunder out-scored them 34-20 in the third quarter and pushed the lead to as many as 22 points in the fourth.

Tense moments

A crowd of 18,203 at Paycom Center were given some tense moments as Pacers chipped away at the deficit, but 23 Indiana turnovers leading to 32 Thunder points were ultimately too much for Pacers to overcome.

"It doesn't feel real, so many hours, so many moments, so many emotions, so many nights of disbelief," Gilgeous-Alexander said, his voice breaking "It's crazy to know that we're all here.

"But this group worked for it, this group put in the hours and we deserved this."

Jalen Williams scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half and Chet Holmgren added 18 points, eight rebounds, a steal and five of Thunder's eight blocked shots.

Pacers, three-time American Basketball Association champions in the 1970s – remain in search of a first title since joining the NBA in the NBA-ABA merger.

Bennedict Mathurin led the Pacers with 24 points off the bench. Pascal Siakam and T.J. McConnell added 16 points apiece and Andrew Nembhard scored 15.

But the famously resilient Pacers, who rallied from a 10-15 season start and authored a string of stirring comeback wins, finally came up short.

The result:
Oklahoma City Thunder 103 (Gilgeous-Alexander 29, Williams 20) bt Indiana Pacers 91 (Mathurin 24). *Thunder win 4-3 to emerge champion.*

Leading the charge: Abhin (20.79s) and Prakruthi (23.84s) put up an impressive show. K. MURALI KUMAR

Abhin and Prakruthi take home 200m titles

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Abhin Devadiga and Prakruthi Roopa Rao won the men's and women's 200m events, respectively, in the Karnataka State senior athletics meet at Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Monday.

It was a particularly memorable occasion for Prakruthi, who claimed her first senior State gold medal. Her timing of 23.84s was also a personal best. The Chitradurga sprinter had won the 100m bronze medal on Sunday.

"My next target is now the National events. I wasn't always a good runner. I got a very good coach, and thanks to him, I've reached here," Prakruthi said.

Udupi's Devadiga cruised to victory, ahead of tougher challenges in the upcoming inter-State meet.

The results: Winners: Men: 200m: Abhin Devadiga 20.79s; **10,000m:** Shivaji Parasuram 30:29.3s; **Discus throw:** Nagendra Annappa 52.82m; **Decathlon:** Trilok Vodeyar 5574 points.

Women: 200m: Prakruthi Roopa Rao 23.84s; **10,000m:** N.L. Thejaswi 38:03.3s; **Discus throw:** B. Sushma 41.08m; **Heptathlon:** Akshatha 4590 points.

Main competition: Sneha says she is focusing on next year's Asian Games. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

I have the mindset of a tiger when I represent India: Sneha

Tejas Rao
BENGALURU

Having tasted international success last month, it was easy pickings for S.S. Sneha at the Karnataka State Senior athletic meet.

The sprinter, a 4x100m relay silver medallist at the Asian Athletics Championship, outclassed the competition at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, winning the 100m event (11.52s). The 27-year-old stated that the feeling of real competition creeps in during international races.

"There is not that much competition here in State-level tournaments, so there is no special mindset when I run here," Sneha told *The Hindu*.

"I don't have the same level of mindset at the State level when compared to international events. At international tournaments, I have the mindset of a tiger because I have the 'India' badge all over my jersey," Sneha said.

She currently holds the joint meet record for the women's 100m at 11.3s, set during the 2024 Karnataka State Senior athletic meet.

When asked if she believes that her record is safe, she said: "No one's record is permanent. Youngsters coming in will easily beat the record if they do well in practice and if their mindset is good. Maybe next year I might break my own record."

Sneha stated that the main focus now shifts to the 2026 Asian Games, which will be held in Japan.

"The Asian Games next year is the main competition I'm focusing on. I'm not at my peak yet. For now, I'm just maintaining good form and giving each race my maximum," she said.

Chawla, Gupta book knockout berths

SNOOKER

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Reigning IBSF champion Kamal Chawla powered into the pre-quarterfinals with an all-win record from his group in the Asian 6-Red Snooker Championship here on Monday.

In his third and final Group-C match, the Indian ace outclassed Ming Wa Man of Hong Kong 4-0.

Chawla had beaten Sri Lanka's Thiyagarajah Thanjeewan, also by a similar margin, in a late-night match on Sunday.

Later, National champion Paras Gupta joined Chawla in the last-16 stage. Faced with a must-win situation in his final Group-D match, Gupta held his nerve under pressure in the deciding frame against Qatar's Mohanna Al Obaidli.

Pushpender Singh, the third Indian in the fray, however, failed to make the cut.

The results: Group-A: Awais Ullah Munir (Pak) bt Pushpender Singh 4-2 (1-51 (37), 47-0, 66-0, 10-46, 34-21, 33-21).

Group-C: Kamal Chawla bt Ming Wa Man (HK) 4-0 (53 (39) -0, 41-18, 74 (35) -20, 43 (43) -1); Kamal bt Thiyagarajah Thanjeewan (SL) 4-0 (47 (42) -0, 40-0, 40 (37) -2, 32 (31) -21).

Group D: Paras Gupta (Ind) beat Mohanna Al Obaidli (Qat) 4-3 (32-24, 70 (38)-0, 23-53, 50 (50) -19; 19-58, 35-55, 52 (32) -8); Saochetapheam Lon (Cbda) beat Gupta 4-3 (0-34, 15-36, 16-40 (30), 50-41, 1-0, 43-8, 35-10).

Man City and Juventus advance

CLUB WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
PHILADELPHIA

Manchester City hit Al-Ain for six on Sunday to secure a place in the last 16 of the Club World Cup after Real Madrid shrugged off an early red card to beat Mexican side Pachuca 3-1.

Juventus proved too strong for Wydad Casablanca while Red Bull Salzburg and Al-Hilal drew 0-0 as the second round of group games came to a conclusion.

Ilkay Gundogan put City ahead early on before 19-year-old Claudio Echeverri netted his first goal for the club with a free-kick and Erland Haaland slotted in the third with a penalty in first-half stoppage time.

In the second half, Gundogan struck again before two substitutes joined in, with Oscar Bobb rolling in the fifth and Rayan Cherki grabbing his first City goal for 6-0.

The result means both City and Juventus are through to the knockout phase after each winning their first two matches in Group G. They will now face each other in Orlando on Thursday to decide who tops the section.

Real on course

Real Madrid shrugged off an early red card to defeat Mexico's Pachuca 3-1 and take a big step towards the knockout stage.

The result leaves Real, under new head coach Xabi Alonso, on top of Group H with four points while Pachuca is eliminated after two defeats.

The results: Group G: Manchester City 6 (Gundogan 8, 73, Echeverri 27, Haaland 45+5-pen, Bobb 84, Cherki 89) bt Al-Ain 0.
Group H: Real Madrid 3 (Bellingham 35, Guler 43, Valverde 70) bt Pachuca 1 (Montiel 80); Red Bull Salzburg 0 drew with Al-Hilal 0.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sukruth stars in Pattabhiram BC's big win

Sukruth (23 points) led Pattabhiram BC to a commanding 78-46 victory over Hoskote BC in the State basketball 'C' division men's league here on Monday.

The results: BCYA bt AV BC 64-47; Yelahanka New Town BC bt Orion's BC 72-37; Cincinatics BC bt SBI 61-30; MCHS bt Young bulls BC 82-51; Pattabhiram BC bt Hoskote BC 78-46; Mounts Club bt Hebbal BC 78-32.

Champion: The victorious Herons Cricket Club. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Babu 'tricks in Rising Star HC's romp

Babu's hat-trick took Rising Star HC to a 9-2 win over Blue Star HC 'B' in the Travancore Cup hockey tournament here on Monday.

The results:
Rising Star HC 9 (Babu 6, 32, 37, Poovanna 9, 22, Chetan 25, Dharmendar 40, 57, Sridhar 58) bt Blue Star HC 'B' 2 (Shaan 43, Medappa 54); RWFSA 4 (Deekshith 9, 24, K.M. Chengappa 18, Dhanush 55) bt Delhi Public School HC 2 (Mohammed Kaif 34, K.V. Shahanul Shafas 41).

Herons CC triumphs

Herons Cricket Club emerged champion in the KSCA Prof. Ananthachar Memorial under-12 cricket tournament, beating Magadi Cricket Academy by 27 runs in the final.

The scores: Final: Herons CC 145/7 in 25 overs (Ashwath 52) bt Magadi CA 118 in 23 overs.

Adhrit's big ton highlights Bangalore United's victory

Adhrit Rao's 168 runs powered Bangalore United Cricket Club past Yankees Cricket Club in the KSCA under-19 inter-club tournament here.

The scores: Jawans CC 173/9 in 50 overs (Nishchinth Parmashwar 51 n.o., Eesa Hakeem Puthige 35, Vaasav Venkatesh 3/33) lost to Bangalore SC 147/3 in 25.3 overs (S. Ananth 65 n.o.) *by VJD method*.

Whirlwind Cricketers 192 in 46.2 overs (Ishaan Nayak 74, G.S. Nanje Gowda 33, M. Dixit 30, N.S. Shaurya 5/31) lost to RVCE Gymkhana 185 for 4 in 24.2 overs (S. Adhithyan 80, H.N. Karthik 40 n.o.) *by VJD method*.

Vikram CC 271 in 50 overs (A.V. Naga Dilip 61, Kishore Khadka 44, S.T. Lohith 40, K.S. Rohith 3/40, Shlok Gowda 3/47) bt Mathikere CC 156 in 32.2 overs (K.S. Rohith 34, Salluri Mani Hasith 3/20).

Swastic Union CC (2) 293/6 in 50 overs (Mohd Mohib Jamadar 81 n.o., Khush Kothari 67 n.o., Rehan Mohammed 51, V. Nabhas 44) bt Hammonds CC 146 in 38.3 overs (Vishruth Uday Krishna 45, Tejas M 37, M.D. Ayush 30) *by VJD method*.

Bangalore United CC (1) 407/4 in 50 overs (Adhrit Rao 168, K.P. Aryan K P 103, Chirayu Reddy 81, Akash Shetty 32 n.o.,) bt Yankees CC 175 in 37.2 overs (Agastya Manoj 41, Aryansh Singh 5/24).

Vijaya CC 420/8 in 50 overs (Anvay Dravid 130, S.J. Aadharsh 106, Harshil Arigala 47, Sujay Korawar 39, B.S. Birendra Pratap Singh 4/73) bt Visweswarapuram CC (2) 129/9 in 26 overs (Krishna Pahuja 49 n.o., Rishabh Adiga 4/30) *by VJD method*.

Malleswaram United CC 204 in 37 overs (Arsh 53, H.C. Shashank 5/56, Akash Kulkarni 3/36) lost to Bharath CC 148/4 in 26.5 overs (Shreyas Subramanya 60, Navneeth Raj 35) *by VJD method*.

Coles CC 134 in 34.3 overs (Hariharan Ganesh Ramani 43, Habib Ur Rehman Khan 3/11) lost to Social Cricketers 138/8 in 44.3 overs (Pranshu Patel 4/17).

SNAPSHOTS

Two-time Olympic hockey medalist Lalit Upadhyay retires

Veteran Indian hockey forward Lalit Upadhyay has called time on his illustrious international career, drawing curtains on over a decade-long journey that saw him be a part of the teams that won bronze medals in Tokyo and Paris Olympic Games.

He was also a part of the squads that finished third in the FIH Pro League 2021-22 and won gold at the 2022 Asian Games. Lalit was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2021.

Shaw parts ways with Mumbai, set to join Maharashtra

Prithvi Shaw, the opener who was dropped from the Mumbai squad midway through the last season, is set to join Maharashtra after obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).